

THE U.F.A.

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF
THE UNITED FARMERS OF ALBERTA :: THE ALBERTA WHEAT POOL
AND OTHER PROVINCIAL MARKETING POOLS

Vol. 10

CALGARY, ALBERTA, APRIL 1st, 1931

No. 7

Campaign to Organize Co-operative Buying of Bulk Commodities

U.F.A. Executive Completes Plans

Official News from the Alberta Wheat Pool

A Comparison in Management (Page 11)

Alberta Legislative Assembly Prorogues

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Principal Contents

PAGE

EDITORIAL.....	3
NEWS OF THE ORGANIZATION.....	4
PROVINCE-WIDE CAMPAIGN TO ORGANIZE BUYING POWER.....	4
NEW SESSION OPENS UNDER SHADOW OF DEPRESSION.....	6
GUARANTEE SAVED FARMERS FROM HEAVY LOSSES.....	8
NEWS FROM ALBERTA WHEAT POOL HEAD OFFICE.....	10
A COMPARISON IN MANAGEMENT.....	11
CANADIAN WHEAT POOLS AND THE PRESENT CRISIS.....	12
CERTAIN FERTILIZERS INCREASE YIELDS.....	13
INTERESTS OF THE UNITED FARM WOMEN.....	16
THE POETRY OF SIMPLE THINGS.....	16
U.F.A. JUNIOR ACTIVITIES.....	19
THE COMING JUNIOR CONFERENCE.....	19
NEWS FROM HEAD OFFICE ALBERTA LIVESTOCK POOL.....	20
STABILIZATION BOARD RECOMMENDED.....	22
SEED GRAIN ADVANCES PROVIDED FOR.....	24
ASSEMBLY ASKS GUARANTEED PRICE OF 70 CENTS.....	24
SCHOOL BILL IN MODIFIED FORM PASSES.....	25
CONVENTION DEBATE ON SECESSION.....	26
VICE-PRESIDENT ADDRESSES MEETINGS.....	29
GARLAND DESCRIBES REAL CONDITIONS IN WEST.....	30

EDITORIAL

5

ORGANIZED PURCHASING POWER

On page 4 of this issue Mr. Priestley describes the plans which have been prepared by the Executive and Board for a Province-wide campaign to organize district and constituency units, based on the U.F.A. Locals, for the purposes of co-operative buying. The plans have been carefully worked out at a series of conferences since the Annual Convention of the Association, and the work of organization is now beginning.

The basis of the U.F.A. movement is the membership in local and district communities. While the chosen representatives of the farm people in Parliament and the Legislature and in the farmers' marketing organizations are grappling, from many angles, with the problems created by the disastrous slump in the prices of farm products, here, in the field of co-operative buying, is a task to the completion of which every member in every Local can make a direct, practical and effective contribution. By making it the farmers can not only lighten the burden which each farm family now must bear; they can strengthen the hands of their representatives who are carrying on, in Provincial and national fields, the struggle to place agriculture on a parity with other industries, and to bring about those fundamental changes in the economic and social order the need for which is becoming increasingly imperative.

The systematic organization of the farmers' purchasing power is worth undertaking. By the concerted effort of

the officers and membership throughout the Province it can be carried forward to a successful issue.

* * *

THE SESSION AT EDMONTON

Complete vindication of the action taken by the Alberta Government in encouraging the producers' and consumers' co-operatives; a frank facing of the grave issues to which the world-wide and national economic depression has given rise; and a bold setting forth of policies necessary to deal with the problems of the distressed industry of agriculture, marked the session of the Provincial Legislature which has recently closed. In the demand for a guaranteed minimum price for the wheat crop of the coming season to which the Assembly gave expression, it will have the general support of the farm people of the Province. The case for the guarantee was clearly and forcefully set forth by Premier Brownlee in the closing debate of the session.

The attacks upon Government policy in respect to the producers' and consumers' organizations served a useful purpose. In the debates on the Wheat Pool legislation there was revealed a definite cleavage between those fair weather friends who believe in co-operation in "principle," but are ready to cavil against every measure which is designed to conserve the gains of the movement, and those who remain firm in their determination that these gains shall not be lost.

* * *

IN THE NATIONAL PARLIAMENT

In this issue we publish brief extracts from the speeches of the two U.F.A. Members of Parliament who first contributed to the debate on the address at Ottawa. The speeches of other members are just to hand.

Both Mr. Spencer and Mr. Coote have set forth the case for immediate Parliamentary action to cope with the disaster to Western Agriculture, with admirable clarity and courage.

For ten years in the House of Commons, these and a number of other Farmer and Labor members have set forth the case for the reform of our banking and financial system as the prerequisite for any permanent progress towards a just and workable economic system. Possessed of an understanding of the nature of the system such as few public men who are in a position to state their views freely possess, these members have formed the spearhead of a movement which today is rapidly gathering strength. They will be the leaders in new advances.

* * *

Of the co-operating groups of which Mr. Gardiner is chairman the *Montreal Witness* states in a recent issue:

(Continued on page 27)

NEWS OF THE ORGANIZATION

Activities of Locals and District Associations and Information from Central Office—Notes on Co-operation

A Province-Wide Campaign to Organize the Buying Power of Alberta Farm People

By Norman F. Priestley, Vice-President.

THERE is no one to save us but ourselves." Such is the emphatic declaration of the "Manifesto to the Farm People of Alberta," issued by the 1931 Annual Convention of the U.F.A., a document which bids fair to take rank among the historic records of the rise and progress of peoples.

Inspired with the beliefs expressed in that Manifesto and with the knowledge that the people of the farms of Alberta have already done great things for themselves, the Executive and Board of the U.F.A. have prepared plans and are now launching out on a Province-wide campaign to solve the problem of rural living and cope with the immediate difficulties which beset our people.

To increase the value of the alarmingly few dollars passing through our hands; to counteract in so doing, to the greatest extent possible, this very season, the pressure of economic forces which are rapidly reducing thousands of families on the farms to a state of very real poverty from which there is almost no hope of recovery; to put a weapon into the hands of thousands of other farm families more favorably situated but engaged in a tremendous struggle against enormous odds to preserve the fruits of two generations of pioneering and hard, efficient labor, that will serve them well: these are the objects before us. Co-operation is our method. Co-operation is our weapon. Co-operation is the only means by which the great mass of people, individually weak and futile in the struggle against great economic forces, can expect to win anything for themselves.

Great things have been done by the United Farmers of Alberta through co-operation. It remains for them to make what has been done more effective and carry out the principle in every field of effort. We have organized socially and educationally in our local communities. We have done things in the political field and in the realm of co-operative marketing which have drawn the attention of the world. Powerful economic forces have to a great degree nullified our efforts. The immediate task is to strengthen ourselves where we have been weak.

Consumer Field Barely Touched

As producers we have become relatively strong. As consumers we have scarcely tried our strength. We hear much talk of the immutability of the law of supply and demand. As producers we can exercise a considerable measure of control of supply. As consumers we can create and in a great measure control demand. To

mobilize thirty or forty thousand farmer families in this Province in such a way as to bargain with one voice for the principal commodities we need is to present a front to the organized forces of industry and commerce that will supplement our organized selling power on the markets of the world and tend to bring about that equalization or parity of prices for which we have long contended. We must remind ourselves again and again that it is not a matter of how many dollars we receive for our labor. The question is: how much of the products and services of other men can we command with those dollars?

Your President, Robert Gardiner, before he left for Ottawa, gave it as his conviction that the next great field of effort, the next great opportunity to better the condition of the agricultural people of Alberta, is in co-operative buying. Acting under instructions from the Annual Convention, the Board called into conference representatives of the various co-operative organizations of the farm movement. This conference asked the Alberta Co-operative Council to investigate the possibilities. The Council reported to the U.F.A. Executive.

Proposed Plan of Organization

The Executive secured the endorsement of the Board for the proposed plan, which is as follows:

U.F.A. Co-operative Associations will be organized on a Provincial constituency basis, or district association basis, where the Provincial constituency does not prove suitable for such organization. These associations will be organized under the Co-operative Associations Act in the same way as the Coronation Constituency U.F.A. Co-operative Association, which since its organization in March, 1930, has done a business of \$40,000, saving to the members of the twenty-six Local U.F.A.'s which constitute its membership an amount around six thousand dollars without involving the farmers who compose those Locals in a single dollar of capital investment.

These Constituency or District Co-operative Associations, when formed, will be served by a Central Purchasing Commission which will deal on their behalf with wholesale and manufacturing interests for the purchase of staple commodities in carlot quantities. It is the intention to strengthen the co-operative movement where already established.

U.F.A. Membership Basis of Enterprise

Locals of the U.F.A. will be the basic units of the organization. An individual farmer does not join the

Co-operative Association. He joins the Local U.F.A. The Local U.F.A. becomes the member of the Constituency or District Association. The Local appoints one of its members as its trustee in the Co-operative Association. He signs a Declaration of Trust. The trustees appointed by the Locals become the active board, appoint and control their manager; where not otherwise provided for by the Local, their trustee may be the business agent of the Local.

The manager of the Co-operative Association receives from the trustees or other agents of the Locals their orders for carlots of commodities, negotiates with commercial interests for a price, adds an amount agreed upon for commission and reserve, and sees to the car being billed to the shipping point designated by the Local. It is the business of the trustee, secretary or other agent of the Local to collect the orders and necessary cash deposits and make arrangements with the local bank for meeting the sight draft upon the car. The amount of his commission will be fixed by each Local for itself.

Present plans do not include the purchasing of types of goods into which personal choice and taste greatly enters—what are known as “shelf foods,” carried by co-operative stores and local merchants. There are many commodities absolutely essential on the farm that can be purchased at a great saving by collective buying. At the moment, in this enterprise we are not so much concerned with ultimate ends as we are with immediate pressing needs; while at the same time what we propose to do is leading in the direction of the goal of our movement.

Much to Be Done Before Seeding

Organize! Organize! our old rallying cry, must be heard again and acted upon effectively. The Directors of the U.F.A., armed with sufficient copies of the necessary legal papers, are calling together the responsible officers. There is every ground for the hope and expectation that much will be done before seeding; and that, before the snow flies in the fall and the crop of 1931 is marketed, large areas of the Province will have been organized along these lines so as to give a volume of purchasing power that will command the attention of and secure service from the business interests with which we must deal. In many districts Locals of the Association for years past have engaged successfully in co-operative buying. Both in the early days of our movement and in its more recent history, large numbers of our most successful Locals have built up their membership in this manner. By the organization on an extensive scale of Constituency and District Co-operative Associations, the buying strength of every Local now engaged in such enterprise will be materially increased. The greater the number of Locals drawn into the larger associations, the more effective will the collective purchasing power of the farm people become.

There is evidence that in some parts of the Province a kind of despair has settled down, and people are looking for some Government or other outside agency to lift them up. Others again appear to have given up hope in Government, marketing pools, and everything.

Some of these are heard to express the hope that things will become worse. They decry such efforts as we are now making as “attempts to patch up the System.” They are getting a glimpse of other world movements of “taking over the means of production and distribution.” What would they “take over” and operate in Alberta, or Western Canada? Can we afford to rest our hopes for this year or the future on such possibilities?

We have our representatives in Government and Parliament. We have our great marketing organizations. We have our students and advocates of financial and other fundamental economic and political reforms. These are all at work. We shall strengthen them, not weaken them, by doing for ourselves this thing which lies at hand, mobilizing and intelligently directing our purchasing power as consumers.

PLAN OF ORGANIZATION OF CO-OPERATIVE ASSOCIATIONS

The plan of organization which it is proposed to follow in setting up Provincial Constituency and District Co-operative Associations of the U.F.A. is based, as stated in Mr. Priestley's article, upon the plan adopted with very successful results by the Coronation Constituency U.F.A. Co-operative Association. A brief description of the plan, and of the progress made by the Coronation Association, was presented in the form of a report to the Annual Convention and printed on page 22 of *The U.F.A.* of February 16th, to which we would refer our readers. That Association, organized on March 3rd, 1930, has handled during the year of its operation twine, coal, oils and greases, lumber, potatoes and flour. The consolidated buying power of the Association has enabled it to obtain quantity discounts sufficient to cover the cost of operation and provide for a reserve, and to allow a commission to the Locals.

Summing up the results of the first year of operation of the plan of co-operative purchasing followed in Coronation, Charles Fawcett, President of the constituency association, declares that the members are convinced that the method of organization is sound. “We are strongly of the opinion,” he states, “that if the major portion of the Province were similarly organized and could place their consolidated purchasing power through one central agency, the benefits conferred upon our members could be substantially extended.”

* * *

ORGANIZATION ALREADY PROCEEDING

Although the plans for a Province-wide campaign for the establishment of Constituency and District Co-operatives as set forth in the foregoing article have only recently been completed, we understand that already steps have been taken in some communities to carry them into effect. In the constituency of Acadia a very strong opinion has existed for some time in favor of organization of a U.F.A. constituency Co-operative Association.

H. B. MacLeod, U.F.A. Director for Macleod, has issued an invitation to the directors of the Claresholm-Nanton and Macleod U.F.A. Provincial Constituency Associations to attend a meeting in Claresholm this week, at which the proposed plan of organization will be discussed. Mr. Priestley, who will be in Claresholm on the date of the meeting, will be present at the meeting with the boards if this is arranged.

New Session Opens Under Shadow of Grave Depression

Brief Reference to Agricultural Problem in Speech from Throne
—Debate Begins—Opposition Leader's Criticism and Premier's Reply—U.F.A. Members Press for Financial Reform



By Miss AGNES MACPHAIL, M.P.

OTTAWA, March 21.—The opening of Parliament lacked the brilliance of other years. It is true the cannon boomed as loudly, the bodyguard were as gorgeously attired and the crowd of beautifully dressed women who thronged the galleries, the lobby of the Senate, and even the corridors, was as great as ever, but the new Governor General and his lady had not arrived, nor had their many gold-braided attendants. The great banks of white and sparkling snow so usual in Ottawa were lacking. Then, too, it may be that the depression cast a shadow over the scene.

As usual, the Judges of the Supreme Court, in scarlet and ermine, sat back to back on the Woolsack; diplomatic, financial, religious and education representatives, Senators in sombre afternoon dress and beautifully gowned ladies crowded the Senate Chamber. At the upper end sat the Rt. Hon. Lyman P. Duff, who in the absence of the Governor General and the Chief Justice of Canada, represented the King. Significant it is that a Canadian represented His Majesty for the first time. The Prime Minister stood on his right, attired not in the usual splendor of a Windsor uniform but in civil court dress, which was brightened only by a row of gold buttons. To this Chamber were summoned the Commoners who came noisily, crowding in back of the bar—Commoners are not allowed in the Senate Chamber. They joked and chatted and made such a tumult that not a word of the Address could be heard.

Speech from the Throne

The printed copies of the Speech from the Throne, however, informed us of the Government's attitude on some questions. The present economic distress is attributed in part to the world conditions and in part to the conduct of the late Liberal administration, and at that it is stated our condition is not as bad as in most countries. The Speech continues: "Between this country as it is and as it should be there is a gulf to be bridged by the industry and zeal of all those who have the welfare of the nation in their keeping. . . . To be effectively met the problems first must be understood. Confusion between cause and effect will but delay their solution." How very true! Credit is claimed because of the tariff revision at the short session, the Unemployed Relief Act and the Russian embargo. Reference is made to the Imperial Conference; a new Tariff Board is promised and further assistance to old age pensions, agriculture, technical education and highway construction. But only such assistance as "the current economic situation warrants."

Mr. Duff is caused to say: "My Ministers have had under anxious consideration the means by which an orderly marketing of the wheat crop of Western Canada may be assured, and have already taken such effective action toward that end as the circumstances appear to justify. . . . My Ministers are prepared to render whatever additional assistance may be deemed advisable in the national interest." The Speech states also that there is a need of a reduction in the costs of production and marketing of the wheat crop and that there is a need of stable markets. All of which may mean something or nothing.

The big guns were fired on the Monday and Tuesday following the opening, when the Leader of the Opposition, the Rt. Hon. Mr. King, spoke for four and a half hours, with the Prime Minister, Rt. Hon. R. B. Bennett, replying for one hour and a half.

Opposition Leader Speaks

Mr. King at great length reviewed the prosperity of the country under Liberal administration and the great lack of it in the last eight months. He quoted lavishly from speeches made by Mr. Bennett in the country and in the House. He criticised severely the Prime Minister's attitude at the Imperial Conference—his method of approach, his utterances and his policy. He condemned the Prime Minister for criticising the domestic policy of the Mother country and for stating that he represented the Conservative Party of Canada rather than the country as a whole. He accused Mr. Bennett of ignoring the technique and courtesy of conference and stated that his ultimatum sounded more like that of an unfriendly nation on the eve of war than the first speech at a Conference of British Nations. He asked the House how Canada would have felt had Ramsay MacDonald stated in Ottawa that he would stand four-square

We welcome the addition this year to the list of United Farmer members of Parliament who have consented to contribute to *The U.F.A.* during the session at Ottawa, of Miss Agnes Macphail, M.P. for Southeast Grey, Ontario, whose article appears in this issue as the first of a series. The next article, to appear in the issue of April 15th, will be by William Irvine, M.P. E. J. Garland, M.P., will write for our issue of May 1st, and other U.F.A. members for later issues.

behind the policy of free-trade and that he was not prepared to consider anything until the Conference had endorsed that principle.

Mr. King twitted Mr. Bennett over the "humbug" incident and it was possibly here that the Leader of the Opposition did his best speaking. He condemned the Government on their embargo of certain commodities from Russia and in the concluding part of his speech criticised the policy of isolation embodied in the words "Canada First."

Prime Minister Replies

Mr. Bennett, by many quotations from his speeches and from the speeches of other Prime Ministers at the Imperial Conference, sought to justify the stand he had taken there and claimed that Sir Wilfred Laurier had taken a similar stand in 1902. He sought to justify his basis of bargaining. In reply to the taunt that a market for wheat had not been found, Mr. Bennett quoted the late Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Malcolm), to the effect that a market for manufactured products must be sought, but wheat finds its own market. The Prime Minister reminded Mr. King that he had excluded Russian representatives from Canada. Blame for the present economic condition was laid at the door of the Liberal party and credit for all that is agreeable was claimed by the Prime Minister for the Government.

New Member's Courageous Utterance

Instead of the House of Commons striving to find the cause of the present suffering, the major parties began at once to play the old party game of blaming the other fellow for what is wrong and taking unto themselves the credit for what is right. Lesser speakers who followed took the same attitude—such drivell commands a good house. Yet when J. S. Woodsworth and Angus McInnis spoke for Labor the House thinned rapidly, not twenty-five members being left on the Government benches. Mr. McInnis is a new member. His speech was good. It was refreshing in its understanding of present conditions in Canada and throughout the world. His love of the laboring people and his desire to serve them was manifested throughout. It was a distinctly courageous utterance.

The condition of Agriculture in Western Canada and particularly in Alberta has been very ably dealt with by H. E.



Miss AGNES MACPHAIL, M.P.

Spencer, U.F.A. member for Battle River, and G. G. Coote, U.F.A. member for Macleod. Mr. Spencer outlined conditions as they are now in Western Canada. He followed Mr. Turnbull, Member for Regina who had said the condition of the West was only bad in spots.

Conditions Never So Grave

Mr. Spencer disagreed. He told the House that in the 23 years he had lived in Western Canada he had never seen conditions as grave as they are at the moment. He stated that No. 3 wheat (tough) brought 20 cents a bushel (first Pool payment—and he had known the Pool first payment to be within one cent of the open market price—if sold by the carload at a certain local point, 17½ cents if sold by smaller lots, and though he got the carload price it cost the farmer 5 cents a bushel to haul his grain to the railway, 10 cents a bushel for threshing and about 5 cents a bushel for harvesting. His total proceeds were gone and he had nothing left to cover the expenses of capital investment, seeding, cultivation, rent, taxes and other expenses. An example of the difficulty of the Western farmer was given. A man this year took off some 25,000 bushels of grain in wheat, oats and rye, yet when he deducted all his expenses he found himself \$2,000 in the hole.

Mixed Farming

Mr. Spencer asked the House how mixed farming was to cure the situation when sheep sell from \$1 to \$3 a head and cattle at 6 cents a pound and hogs from 4 cents to 5 cents. The depreciation in the farmers' purchasing power was clearly stated. Examples were given: it takes 3,000 bushels of grain to pay for a 24 row seeder; for a pair of boots the farmer would have to give 30 bushels of wheat or 60 bushels of oats. A meal on one of our Canadian railway diners would be the price of a sheep and to buy a ton of bran it would require one ton of No. 1 Northern—the best wheat in the world.

The Prime Minister's theory that the banks have no money to help move the grain crop except that left them by the Savings Bank depositors, was successfully exploded by Mr. Spencer. The Rt. Hon. Reginald McKenna was quoted to show that a policy of driving or keeping down prices by a restriction of purchasing power must depress trade and throw men and women out of employment. Mr. Spencer endorsed the stand taken by Mr. Coote with reference to the gold basis. He admonished the Prime Minister to pay more attention to the subject of finance and less to tariff barriers.

Sets Forth Constructive Policy

George Coote, the member for Macleod, made the most constructive speech that has so far been made in the Commons. He suggested that we abandon the gold standard in Canada and that we do it very soon. He pointed out that from 1914 to 1926 the suspension of redemption of our notes in gold obtained in this country. He quoted from a speech delivered by Viscount D'Abernon before the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce as follows:

"If you desire a return of good market conditions in cotton or wheat or any other commodity, if you wish for higher freights and more trade activity, you will achieve these with greater certainty and greater speed by dealing with the gold and currency problem than by another means."

Mr. Coote felt that if no action is taken to assist the Canadian wheat grower he will not be able to survive. He pointed

out that the gold standard has been suspended in both Australia and the Argentine, by which London Exchange owned in Australia commands a 30 per cent premium in Australia, and the National City Bank Bulletin in speaking of the Argentine says: "The suspension of gold payments in the face of an unfavorable balance of payments resulted in currency depreciation which is now about 30 per cent." The result of this, Mr. Coote stated, is an increase in returns to the growers of wheat in the Argentine by 30 per cent in Argentine funds.

Some years ago the Danish farmer was receiving about a third more when sterling was transferred into his own currency, and at that time Canadians could not meet Danish competition. Following the War, the depreciated currency in Germany brought apparent prosperity to German industry by means of a premium on exports, according to Dr. Melchior, German economist. Canada's chief competitors in the wheat export business are Argentine, Australia and Russia. The Argentine is our foremost competitor and that country has, as stated, a depreciated currency of 30 per cent; the same is true in Australia. Mr. Coote believed that this condition was crippling the wheat industry in Canada.

Why Australia Can Undersell

"Australia, on account of it, can undersell us in the Chinese market," said the member. If Canada would suspend payment in gold as she did in 1914, I do not think there is any doubt that our dollar would depreciate; that is if the Government would cease floating foreign loans.

"There are three ways of keeping the dollar at par: first, by the export of commodities; second the export of gold; and thirdly, the sale of our bonds in foreign countries. I have secured from the Bureau of Statistics a bulletin dealing with our international settlements and according to it our balance of trade last year showed a debit against us of 88 million dollars. For the first eight months of the present fiscal year the actual commodity trade balance was against us to the extent of 80 million, so that it is fair to assume that for the current year the actual total balance against us will be about 200 million dollars. We produce all sold only between 30 and 40 million dollars in gold, in Canada. We cannot export gold to keep it up. The gold in the hands of the Government today is very little more than is required as a reserve for our Dominion notes."

Mr. Bennett: "About 10 millions."

Mr. Coote continued: "We cannot afford to export enough gold to keep it up. I believe that our dollar would have been depreciated already if the Government had not floated last fall in New York a loan of a hundred million. The proceeds of that loan were just as effective in keeping up the rate of exchange as though we had sold to that country another hundred million dollars worth of goods."

"If our trade balance is not large enough to keep our dollar at par, are we justified in attempting to keep it there? Are we justified, if in doing it we are killing industry and bleeding the farmers and exporters of this country?"

Supposing our dollar were depreciated to the extent it was in 1920, about 20 per cent, it would add 15 cents per bushel to the price of wheat and that would make all the difference in the world to the trade of Canada."

Mr. Bennett: "Surely the Hon. Member does not mean that?"

In Mr. Coote's opinion the depreciation of the dollar would not increase the cost

of living, but it would reduce the claims of creditors.

While there was much talk in the corridors over the seriousness of the present condition, I see no evidence that the Commons, as such, has sensed the gravity of the situation.

"Fiddling While Rome Burns"

Meagre Help Given to Agriculture a Hollow Mockery, States Spencer

Alluding to the declaration in the speech from the throne concerning the wheat situation, that "such effective action" as the "circumstances appear to justify" have been taken by the Government, H. E. Spencer, M.P., said in the debate on the address that in view of the grave conditions in the agricultural industry; "to the suffering, privation and hardship that have to be endured; and the infinitesimally small amount of help that has been given by the Dominion Government, the above seems to me to be neither more nor less than a hollow mockery."

"I have lived in Western Canada for twenty-three years," he stated, "and have gone through some very serious times, particularly during periods of deflation, but I have never seen anything like the conditions existing at the present time. . .

Importance of Financial Reform

"The Government have known for six months of the tremendous drop in the market value of grain and other products of the farm. The members in this corner of the House wish every success to the Government of the day, whatever that Government may be, in solving the problems of this country. We do not claim for one moment the position of opposition, because we know that the Government have the responsibility and we give them our best wishes in solving their problems. . . Six months have passed since those in power first knew of the market conditions, but what has been done? From the speech from the throne it would appear that it is another case of Nero fiddling while Rome burns. . . If the Prime Minister would pay a little more attention to the subject of finance and a little less attention to tariff barriers, in the long run the country would be better off."

Referring to the resolution of the Annual Convention of the U.F.A., asking the Prime Minister to call a conference of all wheat exporting countries having in view the stabilization of production of wheat and of its export price, "to enable the grower to meet the cost of production and obtain a reasonable profit," Mr. Spencer said: "What has been the answer? Within the last few weeks we have been cut off almost completely from one great exporting country. The effect today is very, very serious. By co-operating with those who are competing with us in world trade we may gain something; but by antagonizing those competitors we can do a great deal of harm. In my opinion the sale of Canada's wheat is the most important problem with which we are faced. Had time permitted I would like to have said a few words in support of the suggestion made by the hon. member for Macleod (Mr. Coote) that Canada should go off the gold basis, which would give us a fair chance to compete with Australia, Argentina and Russia."

Other items dealing with the affairs of the Federal Parliament will be found on page 28.

Guarantees Saved Farmers from Heavy Loss—Brownlee

(Special Correspondence)

EDMONTON, March 24.—The action of the Alberta Government in conjunction with other Prairie Governments in guaranteeing the Wheat Pool liability to the banks for the marketing of the Western wheat crops not only averted panic on the wheat market, and stabilized prices to a great extent, but saved the investment of 40,000 Pool members and that of other grain growers and rescued the Pool with an investment of \$8,000,000 from a tremendous loss. This was Premier J. E. Brownlee's outline of the reasons for the course followed by the Government, delivered in a vigorous defence of its policy in this matter in the Legislature.

The situation in Western Canada today, the Premier declared, is undoubtedly better by far, from the standpoint of both Pool members and non-Pool farmers, than if this action had not been taken by the Government.

The carryover from the 1929 crop still in the hands of the Canadian Pool on March 6th, 1931, was approximately 14,000,000 bushels, said the Premier, and the 1928 crop had been entirely disposed of. Liabilities of the three Western Provinces in respect of their guarantees of their respective Pools at present he stated, are as follows: Alberta, \$5,555,000; Saskatchewan, \$13,400,000 and Manitoba, \$3,491,000. The Alberta Pool, the Premier pointed out, was in much better position than either of the others, since it had at all times maintained a much stronger liquid position; it had not put up the \$750,000 additional security which the banks had at one time demanded, and Alberta had a more readily available outlet for its crop through Vancouver than had either of the other Provinces.

To See Pool Carries On

The Government, he continued, intended to see that the Pool carries on. Indirect bonds, guaranteed by the Province, and taken by the banks, will be accepted by the Treasury Department at Ottawa and will enable the Pool to continue in business without making heavy demands on its members. Total assets of the Pool, he showed, were estimated at \$9,404,000, Alberta's obligation thus being considerably less than the security to cover the amount of the guarantee.

Who can say, Mr. Brownlee asked, in view of the then condition of the wheat market and in view of prices which had prevailed for several previous years, that the initial payment of \$1 for 1929 wheat was unreasonable or unsafe, when at the time it was set, spot wheat was \$1.44 and the May option was quoted at \$1.52. The toboggan started, he recalled, about September, 1929, and the trouble had resulted from the demands of the banks for additional security for the 15 per cent margin they insisted on between the initial payment and spot price at each day's close of trading.

The danger point had come in January, 1930, when wheat slipped to about \$1.25 and the banks had become uneasy, and called for further security. It was at this time the Province had decided it was necessary to place their credit behind the Pool to protect the investments of 140,000 pool members and to stabilize the market in the interest of all grain growers.

This action, the Premier contended, was not unreasonable in the light of the

action subsequently taken by the Federal Government when it had assured the banks the market would be maintained at a safe level.

Justification of the action taken was seen in the drops recorded on the Winnipeg market about November 15th last when there had been a suggestion that the Pool might go under. It was generally accepted at that time, he averred, that the Provinces had taken the right action to avert what would have been a calamity for the entire west.

Undistributed surplus of 1½ cents a bushel on the 1928 crop was being held by the Governments as a set-off for the liabilities on the 1929 crop and would reduce these in Alberta's case, by \$700,000, Mr. Brownlee stated.

Extension of Guarantee

Extension of the original guarantee beyond August 1st, 1930, had been found necessary, he pointed out, since it had not been possible to dispose of the entire 1929 crop by that date without seriously affecting the market, and the banks had been given the assurance necessary to permit continued marketing of this carryover.

The Banks had been reluctant to advance further credit for the marketing of the 1930 crop, he recalled, in view of the fright they had sustained with the previous one, and the question had arisen whether to allow the Pool to go into liquidation or to provide for its continuance to avert the serious psychological effect of its failure at such a time.

The banks, following a conference between Western Premiers, Rt. Hon. R. B. Bennett, bank heads and the Pool president, had offered to finance a 60 cent initial payment if sales were credited to the new crop. This, the Provinces had declined, and the 50-50 arrangement as to old and new crops had been agreed on, no additional guarantees being asked for. The banks had insisted, however, on the margin being increased from 15 to 20 cents.

Meantime prices continued to drop and the 1930 crop was coming on the market, and in spite of the strongest possible selling policy it was found impossible to maintain the 20-cent margin and it had been decided to credit sales 75 per cent to the 1930 crop and 25 per cent to the 1929 carryover. For one month all sales had been made from the new crop, but the margin had been maintained

The Legislature prorogued on Saturday, March 28th, after completing one of the heaviest programs of important legislation dealt with at a single session in the history of the Province. Among the measures adopted is one ratifying arrangements made by the Province with reference to the Wheat Pool guarantees. The Assembly adopted important recommendations made by the Agricultural Committee, endorsing a proposal to create an Agricultural Stabilization Board to develop export markets and stabilize prices. A resolution asking the Dominion Government to guarantee a minimum price of 70 cents a bushel, Fort William and Vancouver basis, on the 1931 wheat crop, was adopted.

The long position of the Pool on the market, the premier explained, did not in any sense represent gambling in futures, but the 7,000,000 bushels held on margin had been accumulated through taking futures in payment for sales of cash wheat, and later sales of these futures represented the sale of a corresponding amount of cash wheat. "I do not think there was any loss in these transactions," the premier declared, "and no futures have been bought by the Pool since the guarantee was given."

When the Chicago market crashed on November 11th, 1930, the need for prompt action to avert a similar situation in Canada had been drawn to the attention of Rt. Hon. R. B. Bennett, by Premier Brownlee. He had strongly urged that the credit of Canada be placed behind the growers by setting a minimum price, and 70 cents had been suggested following the Toronto conference.

Nationalization of Grain Trade

Canada today faces nationalization of the grain trade as one of its most important issues, the Premier told the Assembly in conclusion. "I am satisfied," he declared, "that western farmers will never again adopt the policy of selling through the private grain trade. The attitude of the trade toward the voluntary Pool had changed remarkably in recent years and there undoubtedly had been a growing agitation in some sections of the west for a 100-per cent Pool, but the answer to all these questions depended on our efforts to see that the voluntary Pool continues to function in the interest of all the farmers of the West."

Liberal Leader's Attack

The management of the Pool was strongly attacked by George H. Webster, Liberal leader, as being responsible for present conditions. Errors of judgment on the part of officials, he claimed, had not only cost western farmers millions of dollars, but holding out for too high prices had resulted in the loss of the British market. Interest charges on bank advances to the Pools had amounted to nearly \$6,000,000. The pool's belief that it was a price-fixing rather than a marketing organization had resulted in "disorderly marketing," he thought. He and thousands of other people in the Province still believed, as they had since its inception, in the Pool principle, but

felt that its management had been faulty and unwise in many respects.

Utterly Irresponsible

Mr. Webster's statements were utterly irresponsible and his charges unfounded, in the opinion of Hon. O. L. McPherson, Minister of Public Works. "I have been a member of the Pool ever since its organization," he declared, "and I have always been opposed to it being dragged into politics. Further, I believe," he added, answering another point brought up by the Liberal leader, "that a certain amount of mixing of grain is necessary if the Western crop is to be disposed of. The Pool has never objected to the principle of mixing, but its members have felt that they should not be 'skinned' by allowing someone else to do the mixing."

The Pool could in no way be blamed for the present condition of the market, he continued, for Premier Brownlee in his address had shown a greater share of the carryover had been held by the grain trade than by the Pool. Mr. Webster had not pointed to a single item where undue administration costs had been charged. He felt that the Liberal member had been right, however, in his suggestion regarding interest rates charged by the bank on the carryover advances.

Banks today are in a different position with Government guarantees behind them from that which they occupied when they made their first advances, Mr. McPherson pointed out, and it would be a reasonable concession as well as good business, he thought, if they agreed to lower their rates, temporarily at least. Concluding, he foresaw the day when the Pools would have worked out of their present position without having cost the Province a cent of its guarantees.

Very Low Administration Costs

Gordon Walker, U.F.A., Claresholm-Nanton, stressed the fact that administration costs of the Alberta Pool, .52 cents a bushel for the 1928-29 crop and .84 cents a bushel on that of 1929-30, had been exceedingly low. There was little truth in the contention that the Pool had been responsible for the crash in the wheat market, he thought, and he reviewed a number of international factors which had brought about the present condition. He deplored what he termed insistent propaganda to lay this responsibility on the Pool, and expressed the belief that the Government had followed the only possible course in guaranteeing the Pool and thus coming to the rescue of thousands of farmers and averting complete disaster in the market.

Brownlee Answers Critics

Criticism from opposition benches was effectively answered by Premier Brownlee in concluding the debate on the bill. Charges of "gambling" could not properly be made against the Pool, he submitted, since its purchases of only 20,000,000 bushels on margin out of a total of 1,700,000,000 bushels handled in the past seven years had been made to stabilize the market on three different occasions. While the Pool had followed the practice of mixing grades to some extent, he recalled that amendments to the Canada Grain Act restricting this policy had been enacted at the insistence of the Western Pools. The Premier vigorously denied that politics had taken any part in Pool management, as one Liberal speaker had suggested. This was not true, he declared; it had never been true, and the Province had never attempted in the smallest detail to dictate to the Pool in matters of management.

Following the Premier's summary, the bill ratifying the arrangements made by the Province for guaranteeing Pool activities was passed by a vote of 56 to 1, W. R. Howson, the Edmonton Liberal member, alone opposing it.

Voting in Provincial Elections

The Assembly debated at length a suggestion from D. M. Duggan, Conservative leader, that there should be an independent investigation of the dual system of voting in use in the Province, and the motion was finally defeated by a vote of 50 to 6. Mr. Duggan contended that the present method under which proportional representation is used in cities and the single transferable ballot in single-member constituencies provided insufficient representation for cities, and maintained that the total number of votes cast for opposition candidates at last election entitled these groups to more members in the Assembly than they now have.

Not a single system of voting had been devised which would provide all the reforms Mr. Duggan wanted, declared Premier Brownlee. Just as many inequalities had existed under the old "X" system of voting as under the present plan. The method which would overcome most of the difficulties was that of proportional representation, and there were serious obstacles to creating multi-member ridings in rural areas. Redefining boundaries of rural ridings so soon after the last redistribution was unnecessary, he thought.

Replying to complaints of Mr. Duggan and G. H. Webster, Liberal leader, that the U.F.A. Government had not been as interested in encouragement of industries as it might have been, the Premier declared that this was not so, and he challenged them to cite one instance when they had been lax in this regard. Industrial development in fact, he pointed out, had been greater during the U.F.A. tenure of office than in any similar period in the history of the Province.

F. C. Moyer, Drumheller, speaking for the Independent members, thought the claims of Calgary and Edmonton for more representation should not be taken too seriously. Independent candidates had suffered more than those of the old parties at last election, and he predicted that their number would be increased after next election.

Workmen's Compensation

Workmen's compensation in all its phases will be reviewed before next session of the Legislature, Premier Brownlee told the members in the course of a discussion of a motion by Col. F. C. Jamieson, Conservative, Edmonton, urging the right of appeal to the Supreme Court of Alberta for cases dissatisfied with the rulings of the Compensation Board. Soldiers are given the privilege of appealing their pension cases, said the Edmonton members, and why should this not be provided for workmen? The Labor party did not favor this move, said Fred White of Calgary, president of the Alberta Federation of Labor, since it felt that such appeals only delayed payment of compensation in many needy cases.

Threats of Secession

Warnings that threats of secession heard in some parts of the West will have to be reckoned with if the economic position of the western farmer is not improved, were voiced in the house in a vigorous speech by M. C. McKeen, U.F.A., Lac Ste. Anne. "The member who sits complacently by and lets people of the West

continue to be hewers of wood and drawers of water for eastern financial interests, without expressing his views on the floor of the Assembly, is not being true to the people he represents," declared Mr. McKeen.

A. M. Matheson, U.F.A., Vegreville, maintained that what was needed was a united viewpoint among Westerners as to proper policy to solve their difficulties, and he saw no danger in discussing the secession issue, if this would help to clear up the situation.

P. J. Enzenauer, U.F.A., Alexandra, emphasized the need for reduced costs of agricultural production and said he foresaw serious competition from Russia for Canadian products on world markets.

To Report on Co-op Securities

The Provincial Auditor before next session of the Legislature will prepare a report on the value of all securities held by the Government for loans and guarantees advanced to co-operative and other organizations, the report to be compiled from the certified balance sheets of such bodies. This decision was reached when the Legislature adopted an amendment proposed by F. C. Moyer, Independent, Drumheller, to the motion of H. J. Montgomery, Liberal, Wetaskiwin, that an independent appraisal be made of the securities covering the advances made to dairy pools operating under government advances or guarantees in the Province.

The Assembly was wasting altogether too much time worrying about the position of the co-operative activities guaranteed by the government, thought J. R. Love, U.F.A., Wainwright, since these were all doing well and there was no question as to their ultimate ability to repay their loans.

The case of the Northern Alberta Dairy Pool, he reported, was evidence of this satisfactory position. The bank was well satisfied with its credit position; the Pool held the confidence of the producers since its membership was steadily growing; demands for its products were exceeding the marketable supply, and it enjoyed the fullest confidence and support of the Government. In view of the tremendous strides made by this organization since it had started in business, he challenged W. R. Howson, Liberal, Edmonton, to prove his contention that the balance sheet did not show the Pool's true position.

Treasurer States Position

The Northern Alberta Dairy Pool since its inception had not only paid back considerable sums into the capital funds of the Province, but had established a profitable milk business in Edmonton, said Provincial Treasurer Hon. R. G. Reid. The Southern Alberta Dairy Pool and the Calgary and District Milk Producers' Association, he added, were both making good and turning funds back into the business. Progress of the Pools was shown by the steadily growing membership and volume of business, and the government guarantees, he declared, were twice as safe as when they were made.

"Opposition members in three years' time will not have a word of criticism to say concerning the co-operative organizations," confidently predicted Premier Brownlee. The Government were justified, he maintained, in withholding from the public certain information which in the hands of the business opponents would have done the Pools incalculable harm, and the same result would follow from the inferences and faulty arguments of those opposed to the Pools.

(Continued on page 22)

News from Alberta Wheat Pool Head Office

Information for Members and Locals Issued by the Publicity Department of the Alberta Wheat Pool

McBean brothers, grain exporters of Winnipeg, are coming out with interviews and letters in the newspapers telling how foolish and short-sighted the Wheat Pool has been.

McBEANS' BOOMERANG Pool has been. McBean brothers say they have been in the grain business since before the exchange was formed and intimate that they know all there is to be known about the train trade.

The brothers apparently, however, forgot to look back along their own trail, and the Saskatchewan Pool section of the *Western Producer* prints the following copy of an advertisement inserted in the *Saskatchewan Farmer* on September 1st, 1929, by McBean brothers:

"Ship Your Grain to McBean Brothers

"Crop conditions the world over appear to be unsatisfactory this year, so much so that we consider higher prices warranted than those prevailing. It is our opinion, given after careful study of the world conditions, that our wheat should be worth today \$2.00 per bushel, with considerably higher prices later on.

"Assuming that importing countries take 850,000,000 bushels, which is a moderate estimate, as last year they took 927,000,000 bushels, and European crops this year are short of last, we have every indication of a shortage in supplies before another crop has been harvested. For this reason we look for wheat to sell at \$2.25 per bushel, barley \$1.25, and oats 95c."

* * *

Kansas Wheat Growers' Journal.—A Western Kansas grower who didn't need any help in marketing his wheat, who had money enough to deliver it, etc., recently sold an

WHO COULD HAVE DONE WORSE?

accumulation that brought him nine cents per bushel, after he had paid storage charged to the local elevator man. Out of that nine cents he must pay taxes for two years, which likely will leave him around six cents per bushel. This is not an extreme case. It can be multiplied many times in every important wheat-producing country in the wheat belt. Peculiar as it may seem, the boys who were handed the bitter pills have swallowed them completely without a murmur. Had they been members of a wheat pool they would have breathed fire and brimstone against their own organization. As it is, they're trying to forget and are hoping for better luck next time. This man could have sold his wheat at one time for \$1.25 per bushel. Had he been a pool member he would have figured he lost the difference between nine cents and \$1.25, but being a patron of the grain trade he makes no such comparison. All of which goes to show that when farmers are as liberal with their own organization as they are with the grain trade; when they support it as they always have supported dealers, then the co-operative way of doing business will come into its own. The trouble with too many members now is the fact they look upon their co-operative as another middleman, as another place to shop around, as a haven only in times of stress and storm. That attitude will have to change before co-operatives enjoy the growth they deserve. That attitude will have to change before the problem of membership relations ceases to be the biggest problem faced by the management of any co-operative.

* * *

Major H. G. L. Strange, head of the educational department of the Searle Grain Co., says a study of the books of his company reveals that 84 per cent of farmer patrons delivering wheat from the 1929 crop, sold before December 30th, 1929. Major Strange then proceeds, in the course of a letter to the *Family Herald and Weekly Star*, to presume that all non-Pool farmers did likewise.

This is a different situation to that portrayed by Hon. Frank Oliver, Prof. James Boyle, and other grain trade propagandists. Year after year these men have been saying non-Pool farmers sold throughout the year and thus were able to get the yearly average price.

In the autumn of 1929 farmers were given every encouragement by the trade not to sell their wheat, or to sell it and buy futures. As an instance we quote McBean Bros., pioneer grain merchants, who predicted in an advertisement

inserted in the *Saskatchewan Farmer* early in the fall of 1929, that wheat would go to \$2.25 a bushel.

If 84 per cent of non-Pool farmers sold their 1929 wheat before December 30th, 1929, it is fair to estimate that a larger percentage sold previous crops before the end of the calendar year. In that event they received prices considerably below the Pool average price year after year.

During the five year period from 1923 to 1928 the average Winnipeg price of No. 1 Northern wheat during the months of September, October and November was \$1.35½ compared with \$1.43½ during December, January and February, \$1.45½ during March, April and May and \$1.48½ during June, July and August.

Furthermore, Major Strange has overlooked taking into account the losses on margins in option dealing. It is well-known that the grain trade has continually advised the non-Pool farmers to sell their grain on delivery and purchase the option if they thought prices were going higher. The Wheat Pool has never followed the practise of giving this advice. It might be well for Major Strange, in all fairness, to include option losses in his figures of price returns to non-Pool farmers.

* * *

It has been stated that the Canadian Wheat Pool in some manner has antagonized the British miller and as a result has not been obtaining its share of export business to the United Kingdom. The British Board of

POOL SALES TO BRITAIN Trade Year Book gives total exports of Canadian wheat for consumption in the United Kingdom 1929-30 season as 43 million bushels, of which the Canadian Pool exported direct 23 million bushels or over 53 per cent of such exports.

During the 1928-1929 season the Pool exported over 49 per cent of the total to the United Kingdom and in the 1927-28 season approximately 53 per cent of the total, thus indicating that the Canadian Pool has been obtaining its fair share of direct export business to the United Kingdom.

* * *

TORONTO, March, 1931.—If our Canadian agriculture is to hold its own in world markets and if the small independent farmer, who has been the backbone of our country for so long,

is to hold his own in the new era of large scale mechanizing, we must work out some more elastic system of financing farm operations.

DEVELOP CO-OPS. THE FARMERS THEMSELVES MUST PROBABLY DEVELOP MUCH MORE FAR-REACHING CO-OPERATIVE ORGANIZATIONS THAN HAVE YET COME INTO EXISTENCE, AND THESE MUST BE ASSISTED DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY BY THE CREDIT OF THE COMMUNITY. Our whole national economy is based upon the ability of agriculture, our main industry, to market its products in competition with the world.—*Canadian Forum.*

* * *

Dumfermline Journal, Scotland.—There is a mistaken notion that the grain merchant necessarily benefits by an era of high prices. Those who entertain this notion forget that when a merchant sells at a high price he has had to buy at a high price; on the other hand he can only afford to sell at a low price when he has bought cheap. It is not the price of the grain but the margin of profit that interests the merchant, and that margin may be as great in a period of low prices as when prices are high.—E. A. Lessing.

NO INTEREST IN PRICES

price of the grain but the margin of profit that interests the merchant, and that margin may be as great in a period of low prices as when prices are high.—E. A. Lessing.

* * *

The United States Federal Farm Board will not stabilize the 1931 wheat crop, according to reports from Washington, D.C. An announcement was issued by the board that it "cannot indefinitely buy more than it sells or indefinitely hold what it has bought. It cannot follow a policy of buying at prices above world parity paying heavy storage charges and selling below the market." Decreased acreage is held by the board to be the answer to the producers' problem. As the producers refused to follow the advice of decreasing acreage last fall it would seem that the board's present action is taking the form of a more drastic warning. If prices are to be bettered acreage will have to be diminished.

ALBERTA WHEAT POOL SECTION

A Comparison in Management

Wheat Pool Shows Up Not Unfavorably Alongside Management of Large Private Corporations

(Alberta Wheat Pool Broadcast, March 26th, 1931)

Much ado has been made about the over-payment by the Wheat Pool to members during the 1929-30 crop year which has been guaranteed by the Governments of the three Prairie Provinces. During the past week the situation was aired in the Alberta Legislature and an attack was launched against the Wheat Pools on the grounds that mismanagement was responsible for the over-payment, that the Pool indulged in gambling on the grain exchange, and that the West and the entire Dominion of Canada have been injured financially by the operations of the Pool largely because of the alleged inexperience and inability of the management.

I wish to state this evening that even with the large over-payment to Pool members on the 1929 crop, and in the face of the problem with which the Pool organizations are confronted today, the management of the Wheat Pool ranks high as compared with the management of scores of the largest commercial concerns in Canada, many of them consisting of men who have had long years of experience in their particular business and whose organizations have had many, many years in which to roll up large surpluses.

The trouble is that the Wheat Pool has been made a public football and every possible effort is being made to place this organization in a bad light. It would seem that the farmers of Canada are not wanted in the field of business and the present time looks like a favorable opportunity to squelch for all time any aspirations the farming community has to get into business in a large way.

Other Losses Terrific

As a matter of cold fact the over-payment made by the Wheat Pool to its members, large as the total seems to be, is but a flea bite as compared to the huge financial losses suffered by scores of the largest of Canadian companies, and while it would seem to be preferential treatment for the Governments to guarantee the Pool over-payments, yet the public of Canada, you can rest assured, have been and will be called upon to a very large extent to make up the enormous losses incurred by other organizations.

In the stock markets alone the depreciation in the value of the stocks of corporations listed on the various exchanges throughout Canada now totals in the vicinity of six billions of dollars, and this huge loss has fallen on virtually all of the people of Canada. Interests such as the *Financial Post* of Toronto, which are now hacking at the Wheat Pool, have been responsible to a considerable degree for these vast losses. No wonder there are hard times when the people of a country are left unguarded against those responsible for the pitiable situation! The total of the Pool deficits, in the face of the losses I have mentioned, are trivial.

Depression Underestimated

As a matter of fact the present depression was underestimated from its beginning by virtually all of the big financiers and business men as well as the little fry. Never in the history of the world has there been a depression so wide-spread,

not only geographically, but covering such a range of commodities. The keenest minds of all nations were completely fooled and the result has been errors of judgment and consequently large losses financially. Owen D. Young, one of the acknowledged business leaders of the United States, frankly admitted that the Federal Reserve bank was partially to blame for the collapse of Wall Street stocks and, he said: "I have a share in that responsibility for I was a director of the Federal Reserve."

Let us look at some of the large Canadian corporations. Here is the Canada Power & Paper Co., one of the giants in the newsprint industry, which ranks second only to wheat in the industrial life of the Dominion. This company controls one-fifth of Canada's newsprint capacity and possesses huge newsprint contracts and is headed by Sir Herbert Holt, president of the great Royal Bank of Canada, and the Dominion's leading financier and wealthiest individual. And yet this vast newsprint company is in a deplorable financial position, infinitely worse than the Canadian Wheat Pool even with its so-called inexperienced management. The Canada Power & Paper Co. has a funded debt of 127 million dollars and its finances are in such a tangle that a protective committee, with Hon. Charles Dunning as chairman, has been formed by the bond holders. Its debentures, which sold as high as \$94 in 1928, are now quoted at \$11 and its common stock which sold at \$55 in 1928 is now quoted at \$1.75.

Other Financial Casualties

The great Massey-Harris Company, with branch plants and agencies all over the world, lost five and a half million dollars last year and even with its reserves gathered over many years, is having the time of its life in financing. The Electric Elevator Company is reported to have liabilities of 5½ million dollars and assets of \$600,000. The huge losses of the Maple Leaf Milling Co., and Alberta Pacific Grain Co., as well as smaller grain and elevator companies, have been public property for some time. Their management was supposed to be the pick of experienced men. And there are scores of other large corporations who have sustained large losses that have so far been given a minimum of publicity by the newspapers for some reason or other, while the Wheat Pool's over-payments, comparatively small when compared to the aggregate of these other financial losses, have been shouted from the housetops and paraded in spread headings in the newspapers. As a matter of fact, I repeat, the Pool management has shown up favorably as compared to the long-experienced management of only too many other large Canadian corporations now in financial difficulties.

If "Big Five" Were in Charge

I make the statement advisedly that in view of what has been brought to light during the past year if any one or the whole group of the so-called "Big Five" in the Canadian Grain Trade had been in charge of the Wheat Pool during the past 18 months there is nothing to indicate

that the position would be in any way improved. On the contrary, the evidence available indicates it might have been a great deal worse.

Of course there are plenty of people to advise now what should have been done. There are quite a few people who could tell Marshall Foch of his mistakes and point out how he should have won the war more quickly. But the indisputable fact remains that even although the Canadian Wheat Pool had known beforehand to what extent wheat prices would depreciate it is exceedingly doubtful if it could have pursued a different course, with the exception that it would have reduced its initial payment on the 1929 crop. Unbiased authorities agree that had the Pool followed a policy of breaking down the Winnipeg market in the autumn of 1929 the result would have been an almost immediate price debacle and the bringing about of a financial disaster that might have engulfed Canada. The Canadian Pool fought the battle for the producers of Western Canada that year, while as I showed last week, the Governments of other countries assumed that burden for their grain producers.

Misleading Head Lines

In the *Calgary Herald* of Friday, March 20, quite a large heading adorned the report of information given to the Alberta Legislature by Premier Brownlee. It reads: "Alberta Government paid \$561,000 to Prairie Pool to Meet Margins." Now that heading is entirely incorrect and very misleading indeed.

The Alberta Government has paid no moneys to Pool or banks in connection with their guarantee extended on 1929 crop. But legislation referred to merely dealt with confirmation of action taken last November by the three Provincial Premiers in clarifying their guarantee to the banks to include margins necessary on approximately seven million bushels of long options acquired by the Pool in the marketing of 1929 crop through having exchanged actual wheat for futures.

This procedure is regarded as quite proper and necessary in efficient marketing of grain. In fact this same policy of exchanging wheat for options is being followed by the present manager of the Central Selling Agency with full knowledge of the banks as well as the Dominion Government and the Governments of the Prairie Provinces. This is a practice that has been followed by virtually all grain companies and there is nothing sinister about it. The taking of the option in exchange for wheat relieves the Pool of carrying charges and if it did not take the option it would still have the wheat.

Furthermore the guarantee of the sum referred to in the *Calgary Herald* was given by the three Provincial Governments and not the Alberta Government exclusively, which idea the heading on the newspaper article conveyed.

Dealings in Futures

There is an idea fixed in the minds of many people that the Wheat Pool purchased vast quantities of futures on the exchange in order to hold up prices and lost fabulous sums by so doing. This is not true. The total extent of purchases

ALBERTA WHEAT POOL SECTION

of futures in an effort to prevent the continuation of the demoralizing decline, was slightly over six million bushels, and of that total four million bushels were disposed of almost immediately without any monetary loss. The balance of two and a half million bushels was held and later disposed of at a loss. This incident has been magnified beyond all proportion as to its importance.

During the past seven years our Central Selling Agency has marketed 1,170,000,000 bushels of grain of producers of Western Canada and over that period supported the market by the purchase of options on only three occasions involving a total of less than 20 million bushels, or less than 2 per cent of total handlings. Furthermore, not a single bushel has been purchased in support of the market by our Central Selling Agency since the

giving of the Provincial Government guarantees in February, 1930.

INTERPROVINCIAL POOL MEETING

The semi-annual conference of the boards of directors of the three Western Wheat Pools was held at Regina on Friday and Saturday, March 13th and 14th. One of the principal matters on the agenda was the question of international relationships in wheat marketing and a resolution was passed: "That this conference is in favor of an agreement between all the wheat importing countries to provide for the orderly marketing of wheat in such a manner that will make for scientific distribution of the world's wheat and deal with surpluses intelligently and on an equitable basis so that at all times supplies will have a relation-

ship to demand in the interests of both producer and consumer."

Another resolution was passed asking the Dominion Government for enabling legislation in respect to the establishment by the Provinces of exclusive agencies for the marketing of agricultural products.

A resolution was passed asking for cheaper freight rates on coarse grains and feed wheat being transported to various parts of Canada. It was pointed out that if a sufficiently low rate could be obtained these grains could be used to supplant importations of corn required for live-stock feeding. It was also pointed out that farmers in Denmark can purchase feed requirements from Western Canada cheaper than farmers in the Maritime Provinces.

The Canadian Wheat Pools and the Present Crisis

By H. J. MAY, Secretary, International Co-operative Alliance in "Review of International Co-operation"

To separate the recent developments in the direction of the Canadian Wheat Pools from the circumstances of the world economic crisis, and especially from the difficulties of the world wheat market, would be to totally misunderstand the situation and to render a grave injustice to the Pool farmers' attempts to establish a system of co-operative marketing alike in the interests of the producer and consumer.

In putting the case thus bluntly before co-operators we do not overlook the fact that just that misstatement of the case which we seek to avoid has been given with amazing alacrity and equal delight by quite a number of responsible journals in Europe, to say nothing of those on the North American continent. The tone of the latter has been, however, much milder than of those who are farther away from the Prairies and who, consequently, stand less chance of being overtaken in their sins, and have a corresponding advantage in damaging the co-operative principle for which the Pools have, in the main, stood.

Outside Viewpoints

The Canadian critics are mostly benevolent, and welcome the return of the Pools, under the new General Manager, to the capitalist channels and methods of selling, as the father welcomes the return of the Prodigal Son. They are careful to avoid the calculated misrepresentation which characterises many articles in European journals, and content themselves with commending the foresight, judgment and long vision, which has led the Pool, in the person of John McFarland, to abandon idealistic schemes for that cardinal principle of co-operation—the elimination of the middleman. It may seem curious that they do not now condemn the organization of the Pools for the collection and concentration of the Canadian wheat harvest up to the point when it is ready for market. Two reasons may be given for this: the first is the fact that, side by side with the growth of the Pools, coincident with their pioneer efforts to improve the conditions of marketing grain, a public opinion has been developed which has reflected itself in the Provincial and Federal state administration, and will no longer tolerate the excesses of the old

bad methods; secondly, and largely by consequence of the first, it is a great advantage to these exploiters of labor and of the fruits of the earth to have the raw materials of their great remunerative industry—speculation in the food of the people—ready to their hands so that they have only the need to "play their hand" and scoop the Pool.

The attacks which have been made on the Pools have been mainly, if not entirely, inspired by those Othellos who have seen their occupation gone, or at least damaged by the co-operative methods of the Pools. One very important European journal, which rightly poses as vendor of international political and economic news, published specially contributed articles of unusual violence against the Pools, and in a subsequent issue gave the whole case away by the following naive statement of the head and front of the Pools' offending:

"The effort made by this Trust aimed at nothing less than establishing a veritable monopoly of the trade in cereals by the application of the following formula:

'Direct from producer to consumer' and at doing away with the middlemen, whose action, however, was recognised as one of the stable elements of pre-war trade."

This phase alone should be sufficient to convince co-operators of the real character of the opposition to the Pools, and should cause them to stand together in their defence as they would defend their local store, or National Movement in any country, against the attacks of capitalistic speculation and domination. Let it be conceded that in striving, as they undoubtedly have done, to create a genuine co-operative marketing organization, the Pool have made some mistakes. That is only to admit that they are human and that the limitations of humanity cannot be eliminated at a stroke even from the Co-operative Movement.

Not Alone in Trouble

The fact remains that the causes of their present economic troubles are simply those which they share with the rest of the great community of which they form a part. The unprecedented

world crop of 1928 created an equally unprecedented situation in the wheat market. This was worsened by the adverse conditions of the stock market and in other directions. The Pools found themselves with millions of bushels of wheat on hand which could not be disposed of at the price which they had paid to the farmer. On the 1929 crop there was a deficit of many millions of dollars, a position, we repeat, which was the same as regards the whole of the Canadian wheat trade. The present prices of grain are far below the ordinary expenses of farming, and the farmers cannot pay their commercial debts nor their taxes, and it is this situation which has been seized upon by the displaced exploiters of grain as a splendid opportunity to rehabilitate the competitive system and to reduce the Pools to the level of elevator companies as the first step towards the extinction of the co-operative principle in grain marketing.

The accounts of the Pools on the 1929 crop have been guaranteed to the Banks by the Provincial Governments. There, in a sentence, you have the triple interests legitimately concerned in the present situation of the Pools—the State as guarantors; the Banks as the financiers who have advanced for the first payment to the farmers less than the cost of production but a larger percentage of the world price than the market eventually provided; and the Pools themselves.

Visualizing the Position

It does not need a great effort on the part of Co-operators to visualize the position in its correct perspective. They know from hard experience the case of the societies in difficulties being brought under the supervision of their National Federations, and how they are rightly compelled to submit, for a time, to a severe regime imposed upon them by the supervisors in order to restore their society to a normal condition of health. That is the condition of the Pools at the moment and, without stopping now to further examine the merits of selling policy, it is clear that the triple interests of the State, the Bank and the Pools have found necessary agreement in the appointment of Mr. McFarland as the specialist who is best able to pilot them into smooth water, make good the

financial losses, and set the Pools on their feet again.

On the other hand, it is equally clear that Mr. McFarland has laid it down as an absolute condition of his accepting the responsibility that he should have a free hand, and that his first economy and most drastic change in policy has been the closing of the European selling agencies and the declaration that the Pools will henceforth sell their grain through the usual channels of the trade. It is a set-back to the co-operative advance in this field, but it by no means corresponds to a change of heart on the part of the Pool farmers of Canada. If we are not mistaken in their grit and outlook, it will rather prove an incentive to greater efforts for the realization of our common ideal, when the clouds have rolled away.

Smutty Wheat Is a Menace

The Facts

"Stinking smut" of wheat (known also as "bunt" or "ball smut") is increasing in Western Canada. The grain inspection records tell the story.

Smutty Wheat	Percentage of Smutty Durum
1927—1,012,094 bushels.....	2.6%
1928—2,876,239 bushels.....	5.5%
1929—4,042,239 bushels.....	16.5%

Smut losses are heaviest in the Durum varieties.

On every car of smutty wheat you lose approximately \$130.00. At the cost of 35 cents you can treat 50 bushels of seed wheat with formalin and insure your crop against smut.

The Treatment

1. Before treating, pass the seed grain through the fanning mill to remove the bunt balls. Use plenty of air; feed the grain slowly; make a good job.

2. Prepare the treating solution by adding 1 pound of formalin to 30 Imperial gallons of water, or 1 Imperial pint of formalin to 40 Imperial gallons of water. Measure both formalin and water accurately.

3. If you have a Grain Pickler use it; if not, observe the following directions:

4. The night before sowing, place the grain on the granary floor or in a wagon box and spread it out in a low pile about 4 inches deep. Sprinkle the formalin solution over the grain. Then shovel the grain into a fresh pile and sprinkle again. Repeat this process until each kernel is moist. Forty gallons of solution will treat 50 bushels of grain.

5. Heap the grain into a pile, and cover it with blankets or bags moistened with the treating solution to keep in the fumes. Leave the grain covered for at least 4 hours, then seed as soon as possible.

6. If all the bunt balls cannot be removed by fanning, treat as follows: Pour the grain slowly into a tank of the formalin solution; stir vigorously to bring the bunt balls to the surface; then skim them off; drain off the solution; shovel the grain into piles; cover for at least 4 hours; and seed as soon as the grain will run through drill.

Things to Remember

1. Clean floors, bins, wagon boxes, bags and drills, with some of the treating solution; this will prevent the grain from becoming contaminated again after treatment.

2. Keep all formalin containers tightly closed. Do not make up at one time

ALBERTA WHEAT POOL SECTION

more solution than you will require for the day.

3. Do not let moist treated grain freeze.

4. Treat all Durum wheat with formalin solution. Copper carbonate dust should be used only for treating common wheat which is slightly contaminated. Bluestone treatment is no longer recommended.

5. Treat this year even if your grain appears to be clean. Prevention is the easiest and cheapest method of smut control.

Anyone desiring further information would be well advised to write to The Dominion Rust Research Laboratory, Agricultural College, Winnipeg; or, the Division of Botany, Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa.

Tribute to Legge

Kansas Wheat Growers Journal—Sam H. Thompson, president of the American Farm Bureau Federation, had the follow-

ing to say on the resignation of Alexander Legge:

"The farmers of America will be forever grateful to Alexander Legge for what he has accomplished in their behalf. When the call to duty on behalf of a distressed portion of the nation's people reached him, he responded at a great personal sacrifice and with most patriotic motives.

"The task entrusted to him was worthy of a Hercules. It required him to upturn the old order of things and administer a plan which at the start existed only in the most shadowy outline. It was inevitable that he must face the bitter criticism of those who would be disturbed and encounter obstacles such as no man before has wrestled with.

"The job required a man of the strongest character and the widest judgment. And it is to the everlasting credit of Mr. Legge that, despite the difficulties besetting his way, he has in a comparatively brief time laid deep and firm the foundations on which his successor will continue to build."

Certain Fertilizers Increase Wheat Yields

By G. D. Matthews, Supt. Dominion Experimental Station, Scott, Saskatchewan

It is commonly recognized that nitrogen, phosphorous and potash are the major food requirements in soils for plant growth. A test of these three over a period of years at the Dominion Experimental Station, Scott, showed no results from applications of nitrogen or potash, but increased yields were obtained where phosphates were used.

A demonstration on a neighboring farm in 1928 gave increases of eight and twelve bushels per acre for two rates of triple superphosphates sown with wheat. The following year, in a dry season, eight demonstrations gave increases averaging five and a half bushels per acre for wheat on summer-fallowed land. Thirty demonstrations with wheat on summer-fallow over a radius of fifty miles in 1930 gave an average increase of approximately ten bushels per acre.

Persons seeking information on this subject usually ask why such increases should be obtained. Essentially, the answer is, because there is a deficiency of this important growth requirement, but further explanation is necessary.

Early in the season grain crops showed response from applications of superphosphate. During June darker color and taller growth could be seen two miles away, in some cases, where observation permitted. A larger root system was more rapidly developed. Young wheat plants in treated fields therefore made more economical use of the soil moisture, especially that remaining from melting snow. Such fields forged ahead at a time when usually the wheat crop is apparently just holding its own. Evaporation carried off the surface moisture before ordinary wheat fields could efficiently use it.

Rapidity of growth was maintained as the crop progressed. Heading was advanced approximately a week. A similar advance was recorded in time of maturity, a much desired feature coupled with increased yields. Growth was so rank in fertilized fields that annual weeds were usually smothered.

Fertilizers were sown with the seed in a combined seed and fertilizer drill. On light to medium dark brown soils, forty to sixty pounds per acre appeared sufficient, but seventy-five pounds is recommended for heavy dark soils according to present information. Little difference was obtained in using triple superphosphate and ammonium phosphate on summer-fallow, but the latter gave better results on stubble land. Generally speaking, land in good condition gave the larger increases.

Economically, these results have a number of practical applications. A week's advance in time of cutting wheat often means escaping frost damage. This advance, coupled with weather conditions is conducive to a speedy conclusion of threshing operations. Profitable returns from phosphate fertilizers means lowering the cost of producing a bushel of wheat.

White Bread Is Healthy

The following syndicated articles by Dr. Logan Clendening, author of "The Human Body," and widely known authority on diet and health, appeared recently in American daily newspapers:

White bread is the healthiest form in which bread can be eaten. White bread does no bodily harm to anybody (at least after the age of 18 months).

Please notice that I not only declare that white bread does no harm, but is actually the healthiest form of bread that can be obtained.

This is meant as an argument against the half-baked idea so frequently heard that the whole wheat bread is the only healthy form of bread.

The basis of the argument is that in whole wheat bread the bran of the wheat and the wheat seed germ are preserved. These have vitamins in them and roughage. The vitamins are necessary to

health and the roughage helps clean out the intestinal tract.

What the faddists apparently do not see at all is that the two parts of their argument are self-contradictory. The roughage is valuable because it contains vitamins, but the only reason it is valuable as roughage is because it goes through the intestinal tract undissolved or undigested. If the bran does any good as roughage it does no good as a vitamin container.

There is not the slightest evidence that white bread does any harm which is often ascribed to it—it certainly does not cause cancer or any of the diseases, including high blood pressure and tuberculosis, which the gent in the leopard skin said it would. It has always been used as an acceptable accessory to other foods—such as bread and milk, sandwiches, bread and meat—and as such is one of the most valuable foods we have.

What Is Roughage?

One of the advantages claimed for whole wheat bread over white bread is that it contains more roughage.

Some of my readers have asked me to explain what is meant by roughage. Both spinach and lettuce contain roughage, as do nearly all vegetables (potatoes being a notable exception). Roughage is any indigestible or unabsorbable part of the food. The fiber or cellulose of fruits and vegetables is roughage. If you chew a sliced orange or grapefruit until you have chewed all the juice out you will have a quantity of pulp in your mouth that no amount of chewing will further reduce. This is the "roughage" part.

The roughage in whole wheat bread is in the form of bran. It is one of the most indigestible substances on earth, at least for the human digestive tract.

Roughage to a certain amount is good for the human digestive tract, but unlike the goat, we can take care of only a limited amount. Some people require more than others. Only a small proportion of people can use much bran comfortably, and therefore, whole wheat bread is adapted to only a small part of the population. For others it is irritating and results in intestinal discomfort, and colitis of varying grades. It is also productive of a great deal of rectal trouble and irritation.

The idea, then, of imposing whole wheat bread on the entire nation is thoroughly unscientific.

The Staff of Life

Bread still is the staff of life. White bread, on the average, contains 9 per cent of protein. This is vegetable protein, of course, in one of the most easily assimilable and most valuable forms in which it can be obtained. The fuel value is high.

That the removal of the bran and wheat germ from white bread removes some vitamin is true, but bran is so indigestible that little of the vitamin in whole wheat bread is absorbed. The amount of vitamin lost is made up by putting on butter and baking bread with milk. By drinking a glass of milk with a slice of bread you get all the vitamin you need.—*The Northwestern Miller*.

"King Tut" Wheat Fake

The Alberta farmers are once again warned against purchasing the so-called King Tut wheat for seed. On several previous occasions publicity has been

ALBERTA WHEAT POOL SECTION

given in *The U.F.A.* pointing out the fallacy of purchasing this wheat, but it would seem that certain individuals attempt to induce farmers to purchase this wheat under the supposition that they are getting a superior article.

Dr. O. S. Aamodt, Associate Professor of Genetics and Plant Breeding, University of Alberta, has just recently pointed out that this so-called King Tut wheat should not be planted in Alberta. Dr. Aamodt says:

Old Swindle Revived

"King Tut wheat is supposed to have come from the tomb of Tutankhamen at Luxor, Egypt. It might be frankly stated that this is pure 'bunk'. There is not the slightest possibility of such ancient wheat germinating today. This King Tut wheat is nothing more than a revival of the old swindle game of selling undesirable wheat, together with much misinformation, to unsuspecting farmers. The wheat is usually known as Egyptian, and belongs to the class *Triticum turgidum*. In the seed trade it is sometimes sold as Alaska, Miracle, Seven-Headed, Egyptian Wonder, and now as King Tut. Every few years some unscrupulous individuals seem to revive the old variety under a new name, and sell it at exorbitant prices.

"Egyptian wheat is easily distinguished by its branched head. This character gives it the appearance of being very productive, but as a matter of fact it does not yield as well as the commonly grown varieties of good bread wheats. It is of very poor milling and baking quality; for bread-making it is very undesirable.

Don't Seed It

"If Egyptian wheat or any other wheats of the same type were grown to any extent in Alberta it would have a most depressing effect on both the local and foreign markets. Our export grain containing mixtures of such varieties will have lower milling and baking qualities, as well as commercial grade. High and uniform quality in Canadian export grain is now more necessary than ever, since the struggle in the world grain markets grows more severe every year."

Farm Relief in Danubian Countries

Among the special measures for farm relief which have been recently taken in the Danubian countries, according to a report from Agricultural Attache Michael at Belgrade, is a measure which went into effect in Bulgaria on December 23rd, 1930, with the enactment of a law creating a Government Bureau for the Purchasing and Exporting of Cereals. This bureau is authorized to make purchases until June 30th, 1931, but this period can be extended by as much as four months upon the approval of the Council of Ministers. The grain may be exported by the bureau's agencies, sold to merchants for export, or sold to grain dealers or millers for home consumption.

The bureau, however, is not granted a monopoly in the handling of these cereals, and any other agency or individual may continue to deal in them. The law does, nevertheless, authorize the bureau to pay prices higher than those prevailing in foreign markets. These prices, together with the quantity to be bought,

the conditions of sale, commissions to various intermediaries, etc., are determined by the Director of the Bureau acting with a Bureau Council consisting of representatives of the Council of Ministers, of the Agricultural, the National and the Central Co-operative Banks, of the Chambers of Commerce, and the grain exchanges. Fifty per cent of the purchase price of the wheat, however, and seventy-five per cent of the purchase price of other cereals is to be paid in taxation bonds or tokens acceptable for tax purposes until September 30th, 1931.

In addition to the foregoing, the bureau may compel local mills to grind its lower quality of wheat and sell the flour at prices fixed by the bureau; may regulate the price of other flour produced by the mills; may fix the rents of existing warehouses if rents charged by owners of such establishments used by the bureau are regarded as being too high. The bureau is financed to the extent of 40,000,000 leva (\$288,000) by loans secured from the Bulgarian Agricultural Bank and the Bulgarian Co-operative Bank and is exempt from payment of taxes and stamp-duties in its purchases and sales of cereals. Upon the liquidation of the bureau after September 30th, 1931, should the term of its operation not be further extended, the loans advanced must be returned to the foregoing banks and the remainder of the funds obtained from the sales of cereals must be turned over to the state budget.

Manitoba Pool Investigation

Premier Bracken of Manitoba has appointed E. K. Williams, K.C., prominent Winnipeg barrister, as commissioner to probe charges made by J. R. Murray against the Manitoba Wheat Pool Elevators. J. R. Murray is a prominent official of the Alberta Pacific Grain Company.

Mr. Murray's charges were outlined in a letter to Premier Bracken and in this letter Manitoba Pool Elevators were accused of having deprived farmer-shareholders of large sums through overages and under-grading and of having concealed by bookkeeping devices that the management was extravagant.

C. H. Burnell, Manitoba Pool president, denied the charges, stating that they are absolutely false. The board of directors of Manitoba Pool Elevators requested Premier Bracken to appoint a commission.

News and Views

A Pool member in the Delph, Alberta, district has arranged settlement of \$100 for breach of contract during 1929.

James C. Stone, new chairman of the U.S. Farm Board, once owned a farm near Olds, Alberta. He is a Kentuckian.

The U.S. Farm Board is selling 35 million bushels of its wheat, which is less than one-third of its holdings.

In 1929 Russia purchased British goods to the value of \$34,940,000 while Britain purchased from Russia goods to the value of \$171,000,000.

Before a plebiscite is taken on the 100 per cent Pool in Saskatchewan the Court of Appeal in that Province will

decide on the validity of the proposed grain marketing act.

The Dominion bureau of statistics reports normal conditions regarding soil moisture in Western Canada but low subsoil reserves.

Before a Toronto audience, Hon. Frank Oliver deplored any move to reduce wheat production in Western Canada. He does not like to see the restriction of immigration and cutting down of wheat acreage.

Legislation to enable formation of a 100-per-cent pool for grain in Manitoba will not be brought down at the current session, declared Premier John Bracken in expressing the intention of the government to the Legislature.

As at the end of February Canada's wheat surplus was 237,000,000 bushels, according to the Dominion bureau of statistics. At the same date the U.S.A. surplus was 325,000,000 bushels, Argentina's 141,000,000 bushels and Australia's 126,000,000 bushels.

India second estimate 1931 wheat acreage, 31,004,000 acres, 4 per cent above second estimate last year. First estimate 1931 was 30,364,000 acres, reported January 29th, 1931. Final estimate for 1930 was 31,352,000 acres. (Director of Statistics, Calcutta, March 12th).

The Foodstuffs Division, Department of Commerce, points out that for the decrease of every dollar in the price of a barrel of flour the decrease in the cost of flour to the baker is only .0033 cent per pound loaf. It would be well to remember this statement in case the price of wheat rises.

It has been intimated that some of the principal flour milling industries of Canada have been discussing organizing to conduct their export business on the co-operative principle. It is stated that a subject of the study is being conducted with the following firms interested: Maple Leaf Milling; Ogilvie Flour Mills; Western Canada Flour Mills; Lake of the Woods Milling Company.

Roger W. Babson—Someone has said that the greatest barometer of civilization is the ability of people to co-operate. This basis of co-operation is the consideration of the group as a whole rather than of any individual. It has already been developed in the family. No man is looked upon as a respectable member of society if he does not put the good of his family as a whole before the good of himself or any individual member. The strength growth and prosperity in families depends on this spirit of solidarity and co-operation.

Stocks of wheat on farms in the United States on March 1st are estimated to have been 160,282,000 bushels. That figure was about 23.4 per cent larger than the estimated stocks of March 1st, 1930, and about 28 per cent above the average of the date for the years 1925-29. The March 1st, 1931, stocks represented 18.8 per cent of the production of 1930. This is the highest percentage of the previous year's crop remaining on farms as of that date since 1921, when 26.1 per cent of the crop remained on farms. A year ago the percentage was 16.0 per

ALBERTA WHEAT POOL SECTION

cent and 2 years ago, 16.5 per cent. The 10-year average was 17.0 per cent.

Stocks of wheat in the Western Grain Inspection Division of Canada on February 27th, 1931, were 152,209,000 bushels, compared with 150,731,000 bushels on that date a year earlier. Receipts of wheat at Fort William and Port Arthur from August 1st, 1930, to February 27th, 1931, were 125,847,000 bushels compared with 86,785,000 bushels a year ago. Shipments were 116,375,000 bushels compared with 82,355,000 bushels for the same period during the preceding year. Receipts at Vancouver during the season to February 27th, were 51,609,000 bushels and shipments were 46,053,000 bushels.

G. W. Robertson, secretary of the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool, is in Rome, Italy, representing the three Wheat Pools of Western Canada at the International Wheat Marketing Conference. The Wheat Pools of Western Canada are in favor of international arrangements for more scientific distribution of the world's wheat crop based on the principle of orderly marketing and it is hoped that the Rome Conference will lead ultimately to a wiser and more satisfactory solution of the wheat marketing problems of the world. The expenses of Mr. Robertson's trip will be borne largely by the International Institute of Agriculture.

A wheat conference is being held in Rome with Hon. G. Howard Ferguson, High Commissioner for Canada in London, as principal Canadian delegate. He is accompanied by Dr. W. A. Riddell, Canadian Advisory Official to the League of Nations, and D. L. Smith of the Canadian Wheat Pool. The conference is considering the international aspects of the world wheat situation. It is examining the problem under the following heads:

1. International organization of international production.
2. International organization of international credit.
3. The organization of an international wheat market.

As result of agreement between the Australian Commonwealth and States, legislation has been introduced in the Australian Parliament providing for a government loan of 6 million Australian pounds (\$22,483,320) for the purpose of paying bounty of 6 pence (9.33 cents) per bushel to farmers on the wheat exported from year 1930-31 crop, and making loans to farmers in case of need for planting new crop. Estimated requirements for bounty are 3½ million pounds (\$13,115,219) and for loans 2½ million pounds (\$9,368,013). Some doubt in Australian circles of ability of government to raise or borrow funds. Planting season near and doubt expressed of any government aid available in time to assist farmers or influence acreage.

Rumanian winter wheat plantings for the 1931 harvest are now estimated at 6,162,000 acres, according to a cable from the International Institute of Agriculture, dated March 6th. That figure indicates a further upward revision from that reported a month ago by the Institute. It is, however, a reduction of around 10 per cent from the acreage reported as of the corresponding date a

year ago. Rumania usually sows about 90 per cent of the total wheat area in the fall. The crop was reported by Mr. Steer as being in good condition on March 1st. The winter has been mild, with frequent precipitation. Though last year's wheat crop was a record one for the post-war period, it was primarily the result of high yields rather than increased acreage; in fact, the total acreage harvested was about average.

A Matter of Viewpoint

(The Scoop Shovel)

Some years ago the editor of the *Scoop Shovel* had a conversation with, well in order to violate no confidence we will say an employee of the *Financial Post*, and in reply to a question as to why the *Post* took an unfriendly attitude toward the Pool, he said in effect:

"Great Scott, what do you expect? We stand for the capitalist system, hook, line and sinker. We represent capital, money, investment, dividends and profits (the bigger the better) rents, interest, speculation, private enterprise and individual initiative. We represent the whole process of making money make money. We speak for business with a capital B. Your co-operative stuff is opposed to everything we stand for and by which we are enabled to keep in business. You have some nerve to expect the *Financial Post* to hold out the glad hand to your co-operatives."

BELIEVE IT OR LEAVE IT

On Friday, March 13th, Iver Winnerstrom hauled oats to the Camrose Pool Elevator, into Bin No. 13. On that day he had 13 bushels in the bin. Quotation for 3 CW was 13c. He still has 13 days free storage. Iver believes that 13 is a lucky number: To prove this he remarked that he tried to induce Mrs. Winnerstrom to take a ticket No. 13 at a raffle the other day, which she would not do, and the result was that she lost the prize as No. 13 was the winner.

Can't Live on \$12,000

Kansas Wheat Growers Journal—A Kansas grain dealer and miller says he was approached recently in regard to filling the place on the Federal Farm Board which is to be vacated soon by Sam R. McKelvie. Granting the truth of his statement, we will not attempt to say here what we think about putting a grain dealer on the board to look after the interests of farmers. But one of the interesting things in connection with this incident is that this grain dealer said he thought he could fill the position, and would have no particular objection to it except that he could not live on \$12,000 a year. No doubt some Kansas farmers who have been told by grain dealers that the co-operative marketing method was too expensive, will be interested to learn that some of these people can not live on even \$12,000 a year. Looks as though the grain business in years past must have been fairly remunerative.

Nearly 100,000 farm tractors, 9,000 harvester combines, and 5,000 threshers have been sold in Western Canada in recent years.

Interests of the United Farm Women

The Poetry of Simple Things

Notes on an English Essayist and the Verses of an American Poet—
Love for the Farm and Country

Ottawa, Ont.

Dear Farm Women:

So many of you have said you liked my letters about books that this week I am going to tell of two more.

Last week I got a book of poetry from the library and enjoyed it very much, so much that at the time I felt like passing some of it on to you. Then I thought that possibly one must have lived in the country in either the Eastern States or Eastern Canada to enjoy it as I did. However, I happened to be commenting on it to the librarian and wondering if that were the case, and he replied that he had just seen a review in an English paper praising this very same book. The writer had commented on the fact that many books of English poetry were read in America but few American poets were read in England, and recommended this one as being so simple, so natural and full of love of the commonplace things of the country.

This made me think of a book I had formerly read, "Essays on Poetry", by J. C. Squire, in which he discussed poetry and the subject matter of poetry. He reminded us that we were accustomed to divide literature into verse and prose and that the distinction between the two is not always clear, being a shadowy line like the line between day and night which exists but which we cannot definitely mark. Then he refers to Wordsworth's definition of poetry: "It is the spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings that had sprung from emotion recollected in tranquillity".

Man's Chief Emotions Unchanging

He then takes several poems to show that the emotion is the principal thing and reminds us that throughout the ages and in all parts of the world the chief emotions of man are much the same. The same things cause the deepest emotions in us that caused the deepest emotions in the ancient Greek or Roman or in the people of any remote time. We have, he says, our emotions of love linked up with the perception of the beautiful, whether in people or in things; we have fear, we have hatred.

New subjects may be introduced into poetry, as, for instance, the beauty of the aeroplane, but in essence such beauty will not differ materially from the beauty of a ship, another moving thing.

Squire points out that not only are the principal events in our lives as human beings much the same from generation to generation, but that the physical landscape to a large extent remains the same. In the landscape the sky occupies half, and the trees, the sea, the winds, the seasons and the heavenly bodies are unchanged. All this may possibly give an air of the commonplace in poetry that may not give pleasure to

some but it is really why poetry endures through the ages.

In closing the author states that Wordsworth further reminded us that the materials of poetry are to be found in every subject that can interest the human mind.

A Present Day American Poet

The book of poetry I read was "The Collected Poems of Robert Frost." He is, I believe, perhaps not one of the most widely known present day American poets, but possibly the writer of some of the simplest, finest poems. I was so glad to see that the English critic had quoted that same simple little poem I had read to our family as being one I particularly liked.

The Pasture

"I'm going to clean the pasture spring;
I'll only stop to rake the leaves away
(And wait to watch the water clear,
I may)
I sha'n't be gone long—You come too.

"I'm going out to fetch the little calf
That's standing by the mother. It's
so young
It totters when she licks it with her
tongue.
I sha'n't be gone long—You come too."

Lord Avebury says: "A true poem is a gallery of pictures." Now how many, many pictures do those two simple little verses bring to your minds?

In one of his longer poems, "The Death of the Hired Man", he has three lines which paint a most pathetic picture of a life.

"Poor Silas.
"And nothing to look backward to
with pride
"And nothing to look forward to with
hope,
"So now and never any different."

The one accomplishment this poor Silas had seemed to be his ability to build a load of hay, but at haying time when he might have been of use he had been lured away as many times before by the prospect of wages, and the farmer he worked for, Warren, had sworn he would never have him back. But when Warren was away he returned and Mary, (Warren's wife) had taken him in and later she pleads with her husband to be kind to him, for she feels he has come home to die.

"Home!", he (Warren) mocked gently.
"Yes, what else but home?
It all depends on what you mean by home.
Of course he's nothing to us any more
Than was the hound that came a stranger
to us
Out of the woods, worn out upon the
trail."

"Home is the place where, when you
have to go there,
They have to take you in."

"I should have called it
Something you somehow haven't to
deserve."

So many of his other poems show his love for the farm and the country and note the changing of the seasons. "The Exposed West," "Christmas Trees," "Putting in the Seed," "The Cow in Apple Time," "Evening in a Sugar Orchard," "Blueberries," "After Apple-picking," and the first verse of his "A Prayer in Spring," might be the feeling of any people in any age,

"Oh, give us pleasure in the flowers today;
And give us not to think so far away
As the uncertain harvest; keep us here
All simply in the springing of the year."

Yours sincerely,

H. ZELLA SPENCER

U.F.W.A. Convention Reports

A pamphlet of reports and addresses to the U.F.W.A. Convention has been mailed to all U.F.W.A. Locals. It contains the U.F.W.A. President's address to the U.F.A. Convention; the reports of conveners on Immigration, Legislation, Health, Education, Social Welfare, Peace, Household Economics, Beautification and Horticulture, Young People's Work, Co-operative Effort; also addresses by Miss Jessie Montgomery: "Reading for Delight"; E. A. Corbett: "Moral Values in Co-operation"; Horace E. Seymour: "Planning for Better Communities"; Miss Storey, Acting Director, Alberta Women's Bureau; Miss Brighty, Acting Superintendent of District Nurses, Dept. of Health; and resolutions passed by the U.F.W.A. Convention. This valuable booklet should be in the hands of every U.F.W.A. member. Copies can be obtained at Central Office; the price is 25c per copy.

Seasonable Recipes

By AUNT CORDELIA

To Soften Water.—Borax, in the proportion of 1 ounce to 2½ gallons, is said to be the least harmful to wool or silk of any softening agent. Ammonia may be used in the proportion of 1 teaspoon to 1 quart of water. Washing soda should not be used in larger quantity than 1 ounce to 6½ gallons of water; 1 ounce to 12 or 15 gallons takes longer to act, but is safer. Lye should never be used to soften water, except by a chemist, as it has a worse effect on fabric than soda; and a very strong solution of washing soda will completely destroy woollens washed in it. Any softening agent should be thoroughly dissolved before adding soap or clothes.

The U.F.A. Pattern Department

Send orders to *The U.F.A. Pattern Department* Longheed Building, Calgary, allowing ten days for receipt of pattern. Be sure to give name, address, size and number of pattern required. In some cases the customs office requires payment of seven cents duty on delivery.



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7142. Ladies' Ensemble.

Designed in Sizes: 34, 36, 38, 40, 42 and 44 inches bust measure. A 38 inch size requires $5\frac{1}{2}$ yards of one material 39 inches wide for Jacket and Dress. The Dress alone requires $3\frac{1}{2}$ yards. The Jacket alone requires $2\frac{1}{2}$ yards, 39 inches wide, also $1\frac{1}{2}$ yard 18 inches wide, for scarf collar of contrasting material. To line Jacket requires $1\frac{1}{2}$ yard 39 inches wide. Price 15c.

Activities of the U.F.W.A.

A new slate of officers was chosen by the annual meeting of Cherhill U.F.W.A., reports Mrs. Barnhouse, secretary, as well as a social committee to provide entertainment for the meetings.

"This Local is doing nicely," writes Mrs. Walter Langan, secretary of Notre Dame U.F.W.A., "with very interesting programs each month. The ladies are planning a whist drive."

Mrs. Pease was hostess to the March meeting of Energetic U.F.W.A., at Milk

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15 cents

The U.F.A. Pattern Dept., Calgary

River, when there was an interesting discussion following the reading of the bulletin on horticulture, and arrangements were made to raffle a quilt.

Bobtail U.F.W.A. and U.F.A. Locals held a ribbon social recently, raising \$15.50 which will be used to help carry on the Locals. "After lunch an hour's dancing brought a pleasant evening to a close," writes Mrs. Henry Lewis, secretary.

Albright U.F.W.A. Local made \$20 by raffling a bedspread; they also put on a program, followed by a lunch and dancing, for which they charged 25 cents for adults and 10 cents for children. Door receipts were \$31.20. Mrs. Cunningham is president, Mrs. L. Kerr, vice-president and Mrs. J. Irvine, secretary.

Miss Milne of the University gave a most helpful lecture on poultry to Browning U.F.W.A. at a meeting held at the home of Mrs. Woodbridge, reports Mrs. Francis V. Rice. "This Local held a birthday party, jointly with the U.F.A., which was the occasion also of a shower to Miss Marie Freestone, a March bride.

Sixteen members answered the roll at the last meeting of Turin U. F. W. A., when final arrangements were made for the program and social evening held on March 13th. Mrs. E. Stauth gave a reading on the life of Mrs. Nellie McClung; this was followed by an auction of articles made from flour sacks, which brought in \$4.45, reports Mrs. Roy Handley, secretary.

Mrs. S. Lillie gave a good paper on horticulture at the last meeting of Warner U.F.W.A., writes Mrs. Roy Rains, secretary; bulbs and seeds will be exchanged at the next. It was decided to contribute \$5 to the Junior Conference Fund, and to select a delegate. The meeting was held at the home of Mr. Caldwell, Mrs. P. Castolina assisting hostess.

Mrs. Bellamy gave a report of the Annual Convention at the February meeting of Olds U.F.W.A. Local, held at the home of Mrs. W. Yauch, with Mrs. Cipperley and Mrs. Duggan assisting hostesses. The social committee, Mesdames Grisdale, Shimer and Dodd were in charge of a very enjoyable program of guessing games and contests, reports Mrs. Duggan.

A review of the achievements of Sunnyvale U.F.W.A. was given by Mrs. A. M. Postans, president, at the fifteenth anniversary of the Local. "Now we are endeavoring to establish a community hall," writes Mrs. Ellen L. Kellogg, secretary. "Enrolment has increased and there is added interest since the New Year." Mrs. Betty was hostess to the January meeting and Mrs. Frank Redmond to the February meeting.

Arrowwood U.F.W.A. held a chop suey banquet at the home of Mr. and Mrs. M. H. Ward recently, when sixty persons sat down to the prettily decorated tables. Toasts were followed by a short program of readings and music, and a debate, "Resolved that a woman's place is in the home," Messrs. Bishop and Shouldice taking the affirmative and Mesdames R. Shatto and R. F. Williams the negative.

A paper on beautifying the home and surroundings, by Mrs. Geo. Rowley, was given at the March Meeting of Turin U.F.W.A., reports Mrs. Roy Handley. Lunch was served by the hostesses, Mesdames Johnson, Rowley, Engman and Fraser. The social evening on March 13th was a decided success. A program by home talent was followed by supper and dancing; door receipts were \$21, all clear.

The March meeting of East Lethbridge U.F.W.A. was held at the home of Mrs. Gilford, when the telling of Irish jokes produced great merriment. Refreshments were served by the hostess and her daughter, Mrs. R. Tightbound. Mrs. James was hostess to the February meeting, when Mrs. Gilford gave her report of the Convention, and the January meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Chapman.

"Mrs. Stong's bulletin was so much enjoyed," writes Mrs. J. H. Drysdale, secretary of Stettler U.F.W.A., "and our horticultural convener, Mrs. Giefer, gave a splendid paper and put on a flower contest. She is selling packets of seed from her own garden, for the benefit of our funds. Last Saturday was temperance meeting, at the home of Mrs. Gaudin, who gave an interesting account of her visit to the Prohibition convention."

Mrs. H. Banderob reports that "Mrs. E. Barker has kindly opened her home to Beddington U.F.W.A. for their winter meetings, so that they might be held at the same time as the U.F.A. meetings

in the hall. The programs from Central Office are a great help. Our delegate, Mrs. Harold Bushfield, gave a good report of the Convention. The March meeting took the form of a St. Patrick's Day tea. Mrs. Geo. Waite sang an Irish song, and Mrs. E. Barker gave a paper on growing sweet peas. Seeds and plants were exchanged."

Mrs. E. H. Ethridge recently completed an organization trip when, with H. Critchlow, the U.F.A. Director, and Mr. Messmer, she spoke at 11 meetings, including Fawcett, Jarvie, Dapp, Woodlands, Sunnybank, Sunnybend and Linaria. At Dapp several women joined the U.F.A. Local, forming a women's committee with Mrs. E. J. Smith chairman and Mrs. Roy Montgomery secretary. Mrs. Campbell is chairman and Mrs. Goodman secretary of a women's committee formed in conjunction with the U.F.A. Local at Woodlands.

The U.F.A. monogram is stencilled in blue on the cover of the attractively typed programs of Namao U.F.W.A. Local, and the contents promise very interesting meetings. In February members of the Local and their husbands visited the Legislature, and in March they held a Mock Parliament, jointly with the U.F.A., when the Trackways Bill, Municipal Hospitals and other topics were discussed. A grab bag of articles made from flour sacks was later disposed of, bringing in \$5.55 for the Flower Fund. This Local has 20 paid-up members; the officers are Mrs. G. Clark, president; Mrs. J. McLay, vice-president and Mrs. E. Graham, secretary.

The W.I.L. Declaration of Disarmament

By Mrs. Julia Seymour, Secretary, Edmonton Branch W.I.L.

PEACE PETITIONS

All Locals that have not yet returned the Peace Petition are asked to have their copies signed and forwarded to Central by May 1st, so that they may be sent to Ottawa before the close of the Session.

The U.F.A. and U.F.W.A. have always given hearty support to Peace movements and their members are now being asked to sign two petitions in regard to peace. One comes from the Calgary U.F.W.A. Local and is to be presented to our own Government. The other comes from the "Women's International League for Peace and Freedom" and is to be presented at the next World Disarmament Conference which is to be held in Geneva in February, 1932. It is to be hoped that as their influence is to be exerted on entirely different bodies, these petitions will not be confused and that everyone will sign both.

The W.I.L., which is circulating the latter petition in 47 countries of the world, was formed in 1915 and its work has extended till there are National Sections in 25 countries and affiliations in 16 others. Miss Agnes Macphail is President of the Canadian National Section, Mrs. J. Stuart Jamieson of Vancouver being National Secretary. The W.I.L. co-operates with the League of Nations in many phases of peace work and during the last year has been circulating this "Declaration of Disarmament" which

with its many thousands of signatures, will be presented at the next Disarmament Conference of the League of Nations. The W.I.L. hopes to strengthen the position of the delegates at this Conference in regard to a real reduction of armaments by securing large numbers of signatures in many countries of the world. It will be remembered that the Disarmament Conference of 1927 was almost an entire failure. A strong support of this campaign for signatures will go far to ensure the success of the coming Conference.

Rt. Hon. Arthur Henderson, British Foreign Minister, speaking at a W.I.L. mass meeting in London recently, said of the campaign,—

"I would ask you as I would ask our nation and the world to think of this thing as the greatest of the moral issues which our generation has to face. We cannot make our new world order come to life unless we disarm. We have signed the Pact of Paris by which our Government, like the other Governments of the world, renounced the right to war. To us our signature was not a form; it was a reality; and we believe that the renunciation of force should carry with it the renunciation of the means of war."

Though the campaign for signatures to the W.I.L. petition has been under way only a few months in Canada many signatures have been secured. In Saskatchewan, Mrs. McNaughton, Saskatchewan Vice-President, reported nearly 1,500 by the middle of February. How many can be secured in Alberta?

U. F. A. Junior Activities

Watchword: SERVICE

Motto: EQUITY

The Coming Junior Conference

Dear Juniors:

Arrangements for the 13th Annual Junior Conference are now being completed by the University. A letter regarding the Conference has been mailed to all secretaries, also folder briefly outlining the program and other particulars regarding the Conference, including prize list regarding Handicrafts Competition. If these have not yet been read to the Local, ask your secretary to tell you about them at your next meeting.

You will notice from the folder that the Household Economics Department is offering a choice of two courses for girls—Individuality in Clothing, or Serving Attractive Meals. For the boys there will be a Grain Judging Contest. This has been most successful last year, and we anticipate an even more successful contest this year.

The Public Speaking Contest is open to both boys and girls, and our U.F.A. Board will again offer three medals for the winners—gold, silver and bronze. The subject selected will be "some phase of the farmers' movement,"—Co-operative Marketing, Organization, Co-operation, the U.F.A., U.F.W.A., Junior U.F.A., Group Government, Citizenship, Leadership, Economic, Social, Educational, etc. We hope even if you cannot get to the Conference this year, that you are taking an active interest in this contest. Public speaking is becoming more necessary from day to day in our public life and the ability to express oneself is only accomplished by practice. We can send you from Central a Booklet on Public Speaking for 10c.

The Department Scholarship

We anticipate keen competition for the Scholarships offered by the Department of Agriculture—one to the boy and one to the girl attending Junior Conference and obtaining the highest marks upon a simple examination written during Conference Week based upon the lectures given during the week and the books prescribed for the Junior Reading Course. The winners are offered a free term at one of the schools of agriculture. You will be interested to know 121 are taking the Reading Course this year—the largest number in any previous year.

Last fall we sent each Local copy of the Efficiency Contest Questionnaire which we hope has been carefully studied and that there will be a large number of entries. The basis of the contest will be membership, organization, conduct of meetings, program followed, development, representation at Junior Conference, the U.F.A. Convention, and the Co-operative Institute. The winning Local will be awarded a beautiful banner in U.F.A. colors, blue and gold. The Waskatenau Local won the banner the past three years. We wonder which Local will get the banner this year. If you have mislaid the questionnaire we will be glad to forward you another copy from Central. The banner will be presented during Conference Week, and we hope a large number of questionnaires will be filled in and sent to Central on or before May 31st.

Get Membership Up To Strength

Endeavor to get your membership up to full strength without delay and send dues to Central. Our U.F.W.A. Executive have decided that prizes will be given to the two Junior Directors whose Constituency shows the greatest increase in membership. The prizes offered are maintenance at the University during Conference Week. We will need to close the contest in time to notify the winning Directors before the Conference. Do your best to help your Director win one of these prizes.

Don't forget to send your contribution early to Central for the Conference Fund. We hope every Local will strive to send a contribution whether sending a delegate or not. There are no doubt many Locals that will have difficulty in raising the necessary expenses of delegates and contribution to the Fund, so if your district happens to be one of the more favored and you have any spare funds in your Local treasury, won't you send an extra contribution—it would be much appreciated. This will be an inspiring and instructive week, and we hope there will be a large attendance of our farm boys and girls at the Conference.

If you would like further particulars regarding the Conference and the various contests, please write Central.

Yours fraternally,

F. BATEMAN,

Secretary.

JUNIOR NEWS ITEMS

Bernice Keopke, Iron Springs, is the newly elected secretary of the Battersea Junior Local.

At the annual meeting of the Estonian Junior Local the following officers were elected: president, Carl C. Raabis; vice-president, Boyd Thomas; secretary-treasurer, Edwin Linder; social leader, W. G. Findlay.

Dale Holtslander is the new vice-president and Allan Holtslander the new secretary-treasurer of the Abee Junior Local. The last meeting was held in the community hall, at which eleven members were present.

The last meeting of the Keystone Junior Local was held on March 6th, writes Elizabeth Hettler, secretary, when remitting dues for 28 members. After the meeting cards were played, after which the members enjoyed dancing.

The Travers Junior Local was organized on March 7th by Mr. Henry Barnett, with ten paid up members. Officers elected are: president, Arthur Turley; secretary, Arthur Scott, both of Travers.

The Holborn Junior Local was organized on March 2nd by the Holborn U.F.A. Local. There are twelve paid up members. The following officers were elected:



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NASH TEA AND COFFEE IMPORTERS
165 Water Street, Vancouver, B. C.

N. 1-8-30

president, Herman MacDonald; secretary, Marjorie Woodley, both of Holborn.

The Dina Junior Local was organized on March 3rd by Mrs. L. B. Nicholson at her home. Great interest was shown and sixteen paid up members signed up. The following officers were elected: president, Orlen Bratvold; secretary, Parke Dobson, both of Dina.

At a pic social and dance held on March 5th the Willow Springs Juniors cleared \$14.45. At the March 14th meeting the roll call was answered with the titles of two songs over ten years old. It was decided to send a delegate to the Junior Conference.

The monthly meeting of the Cornwall Valley Junior Local was held in the Cornwall Valley School with thirteen members present, writes Joan Prescott, secretary. The Juniors had impromptu speeches for the first time, Mr. G. H. Biggs, the supervisor, choosing the topics, and the committees were formed.

Lawrence Savage, secretary of the Cando Junior Local, reports that at the

last meeting it was decided to organize a soft ball team, and Ray Trogen was chosen captain. Nine new members joined the Local. After the meeting an enthusiastic ball game was played.

At the annual meeting of the Naples Junior Local the following officers were elected: president, Mike Mindus; vice-president, Mario Properze; secretary-treasurer, Frank Ciocchetto. On March 6th the Juniors held a dance at which everyone reported a good time.

At the annual meeting of the Consort Junior Local, the following officers were elected: president, Graham Campbell; vice-president, Roy Flewelling; secretary-treasurer, Gordon J. Flewelling. There are 27 paid up members. The members are endeavoring to get a swine club started.

The March 9th meeting of the Lougheed Junior Local was held at the Mark Pope home with twelve members present, "Because we were defeated both times in our debates with the Girl Guides, we decided to have speaking practices at

the meetings," writes Mervin Skoberg secretary.

At the annual meeting of the Lone Ridge Junior Local the following officers were elected: president, Edward Caldicott; vice-president, Art Martell; secretary, Edith E. Milton. "The meetings during the winter are being held at the private homes and they are very successful," writes the secretary.

"The members who joined after organization were initiated at the last meeting and five prospective members sent in their names to be voted on," writes Thelma McMillan, secretary of the Thorhild Junior Local when remitting dues. After the meeting a dainty lunch was served and dancing took place.

At the annual meeting of the Claysmore Junior Local the following officers were elected: president, Jack Duffy; vice-president, Oliver Willes; secretary-treasurer, Walter Walker. It was decided to hold a debate in the near future, "Resolved that the greatest need of this Province is better roads."

(Other Junior News Items in next issues)

NEWS FROM THE HEAD OFFICE of the ALBERTA LIVESTOCK POOL

Official Information for Members of the Alberta Co-operative Livestock Producers, Ltd.

Spread in Prices Examined by Legislative Committee

CONTENDING that there is today too wide a spread between the prices paid to producers of livestock and the prices paid for meat by the consumer, William Young, Manager of the Alberta Livestock Pool, gave important evidence in support of this complaint before the Agricultural Committee of the Alberta Legislature during the session recently closed. Mr. Young protested against this high cost of distribution of livestock after it leaves the farmers' hands. Representatives of the stockyards and of the packing interests gave evidence, and subsequently Mr. Young was again examined, and dealt with certain statements made by the packers. An outline of the evidence is given in part below, and will be completed in our next issue:

Mr. Young, Manager of the Livestock Pool, was first on the stand. He stated that a considerable amount of advice was being given to extend into diversified farming, how to raise better quality livestock and how it should be finished. A loan company was also under way for the purpose of enabling farmers who are properly equipped to purchase livestock, all of which was to be appreciated in a way, but what would this avail if no action was taken to regulate the high cost of distributing that commodity once it left the farmers' hands?

Too Wide a Spread

Meat products were costing the consumer far too much, in Mr. Young's opinion. He pointed out that Red Label beef was selling in the stores at 35 cents on the top cuts, and the same animal selling at 6 cents on the hoof, the spread being entirely too great. A fair price to the consumer would be 25 cents on the top cuts with other cuts in relation. The price of bacon would also have to come down before the consumption could be increased to any extent. Bacon from Denmark was selling in Eastern Canada at 27 cents, while our own Canadian article on a domestic market was costing 35 cents, and Danish producers were getting more for their goods, and con-

sumers of Danish bacon were paying less.

Why not cultivate the home market instead of throttling it, asked the witness. Not only was the retail price of meat too high, Mr. Young went on, but dealers were not selling strictly according to grade. There was much substitution and misrepresentation, he claimed, which should be made actionable. People cannot depend on getting what they ask for or things as shown in the marking, as grades are substituted and cuts of meat are frequently sold for better and younger quality than they really are. The grading system was good so far as it went, but it did not go far enough. In his opinion the marketing system for livestock products in Canada was crude and expensive, and was radically in need of an overhauling.

As to the price situation, Mr. Young said that packers and retailers were the important factors, and their overhead was excessively high because in part the plants did not run at capacity. His solution was that the producer must follow his product through his own organization to the consumer, otherwise the livestock industry could not be stabilized.

Stockyards Manager's Evidence

Mr. Burrell, manager, Edmonton Stockyards Co., reviewed the operations of the

stock yards and then spoke of advantages in having an open market, where all stock was sold in open competition to buyers from coast to coast. He analyzed the charges collected by the yards and pointed out that those charges could only be reduced by having a reasonable volume. The yards were compelled to keep a certain standard of equipment and staff, that would facilitate efficient handling at all times, irrespective of high or low receipts, and that direct trucking to the plants was a detriment to the producers, as there was no competition when livestock was delivered direct.

Arthur Gainer, of Gainers Limited, who was examined next, criticized the system of the farmer in not marketing his livestock more evenly, and said he should give more attention to breeding and finishing, and that a census should be taken at least twice a year; in this way the volume in sight could be handled more efficiently, and as supply and demand regulated the price, this was essential.

Mr. Gainer stated that he understood the farmers intended to enter the processing business, and although there probably was room for more plants, he cautioned them to be careful, as it had taken him thirty years to learn the business, and his advice was rather they should take a share in some established plant. His opinion on the price of hogs this fall was that if the export basis had to come into effect, it would be 3 cents, but could not give a satisfactory answer as to how he came to this conclusion, it was just his opinion.

Questioned as to the cost of exporting, Mr. Gainer contended that as his firm had done no exporting, he was not in a position to answer, but that Mr. Robertson of the Swift Canadian Company would be in a position to do so when he took the stand, as he was thoroughly experienced in this business.

On being questioned regarding delivery of his supplies into the plant by trucks, Mr. Gainer admitted that the firm were

receiving practically 100 per cent in this way. He also admitted that they sometimes shipped hogs east after filling the plant's wants locally. Questioned as to the feasibility of having the prices paid at plants published the same as the stockyards, he after a little thought considered that probably this could be done.

States Profits 1 per cent on Handlings

Mr. Robertson, manager of the Edmonton branch of Swift Canadian Co., gave an elaborate review of the Swift's Canadian Company's handlings and said that their profits ran on an average only 1 per cent of their gross handlings, and throughout a number of years, had been consistently level along this percentage. He also advocated a census of livestock, so that marketing could be better regulated, as supply and demand regulated the price.

On being questioned regarding the cost of processing a 200 lb. hog, and the cost of exporting same, Mr. Robertson claimed this was not a just question, and at any rate he had not the information at hand. He advocated lower freight rates on finished meat products for the eastern market as necessary to permanent improvement in the livestock industry, and said that owing to the adverse freight rate, the plant at Edmonton was only running half capacity. More orderly marketing was another need of the times. Wholesale prices were now 20 per cent to 48 per cent below those of a year ago. Packing plants in Canada were operating on a smaller margin of profit than most other large enterprises, Mr. Robertson stated, and Swift's profit at Edmonton was only one per cent.

R. M. McCool, of Crossfield, challenged this statement as misleading, being based on finished rather than raw products. Mr. Robertson countered, however, by saying that 86 cents of every dollar went back to the producer.

Thinks Pool System Inequitable

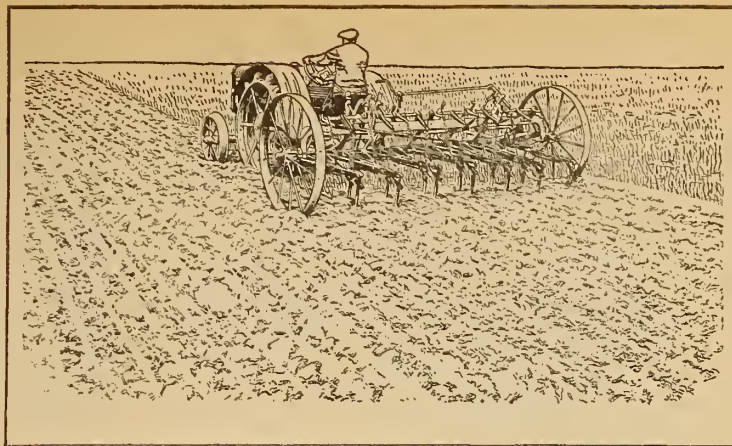
Mr. Robertson then drew attention to a press article of Mr. Young's where he claimed that the plants had received from 95 to 97 per cent of their supplies direct, and thought that this was open to question. He then criticized the Co-operative Livestock Pool, characterizing its system of doing business as not equitable, and stated that there was considerable discrepancy in weights of hogs bought F.O.B. country point, and because of this, he disapproved of the Pool's system and general depression on the market; they had not bought any Pool hogs since October. Questioned as to the killing percentage of hogs, he stated that 68-70 per cent was a good average.

Young Again on Stand

Mr. Young was again put on the stand the following week to be questioned regarding his previous statements, and statements made by the packers:

Question: What is your opinion of supply and demand regulating the price?

Answer: Undoubtedly under properly governed conditions supply and demand will regulate the price, but to contend that this is so under the present system where volume can be diverted from its proper marketing channels and price manipulated, I think is the greatest joke ever perpetrated on a credulous public, and I challenge anyone to give a satisfactory explanation of the severe fluctuations of hog prices for the three weeks between February 23rd and March 16th. For instance, let us analyze the average weekly receipts of Montreal, Winnipeg, and Edmonton for January, and three



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weeks ending February 21st, and compare the receipts received in the week ending February 28th, when the hog price dropped \$1.50. We find that in that week receipts were 58.98 per cent under first three weeks average in February, and 50.25 per cent under the average weekly marketing in January. Therefore it would be permissible to conclude that excess supply was not the cause. However, the price receded \$1.50 in three days, from \$6.25 on Monday the 23rd to \$4.75 on Thursday the 26th, and by Thursday, March the 12th had reacted to \$7.15 or \$2.40 in twelve marketing days. Therefore supplies could not be held responsible in this case. Then it must have been demand, and if this is the case, the consuming public's appetite must certainly act in rather an erratic degree and in short order.

(Continued in next issue.)

LEGISLATURE

(Continued from page 9)

Alberta's Fiscal Agency

One of the liveliest debates of the session took place on the motion of W. R. Howson, Liberal, Edmonton, calling for abolition of the fiscal agency through which Provincial bonds are placed on the market. Not only did he feel that this was an expensive method of financing, and Provincial issues should be disposed of by tender, but he suggested that D. M. Duggan, whose firm is Edmonton agent for one of the companies, had by advice to the Government attempted to deceive it as to the actual condition of the bond market. He also charged the Conservative leader with easing up in his opposition to the Government, and suggested that this attitude might reflect his business connection in the bond business. Mr. Howson, in his attack on the Government and its policies, expressed himself so vigorously and pointedly that he was called to order by Mr. Speaker, Hon. George N. Johnston.

Premier Replies

Premier Brownlee, in splendid debating form, delivered a scathing rebuke to the Edmonton Liberal member for the personalities in which he had indulged. Insofar as any reference to himself or any other member of the Legislature was concerned, not a single one of Mr. Howson's charges could be borne out by facts, the Premier emphatically declared. Provincial financing had been carried on more cheaply by the present Government than ever before in the history of the Province. There never had been the least suspicion of any intention of Mr. Duggan's firm to misrepresent the state of the bond market, he asserted, and the warnings it had issued last fall had expressed very mildly the true condition of the market as he had found it in New York. Mr. Howson, he continued, had quoted only part of the correspondence regarding the establishment of the fiscal agency; many of his arguments were unsound and he had given a distorted picture of the financing plan which had been so successfully employed by the Government.

Hon. Perren Baker, Minister of Education, carrying on the debate, cleverly showed that the Edmonton Liberal member had completely failed to establish his charges against the Government and against the Conservative leader. He registered a vigorous protest against the

tactics employed by Mr. Howson in attempting to impress the Assembly with the soundness of his arguments.

Government policies found another strong champion in Hon. R. G. Reid, Provincial Treasurer.

"Many other Governments have successfully employed the fiscal agency plan for years," he observed, "and surely we are not to consider that they are all wrong and Mr. Howson alone is right." The firms comprising the agency, four of the outstanding business and financial institutions in Canada, had long enjoyed the confidence and respect of governments, and he thought Mr. Howson's

opposition, vigorous as it might be, was not sufficient grounds for cancelling an agreement which was giving the Province excellent service.

The Conservative leader rose to defend himself against charges the Liberal member had made. "I hope," he declared, "the honorable member is not serious when he infers that I could be bribed to refrain from criticism of the Government. Let me assure him that I have a little higher conception of my public duty than that."

At the conclusion of the debate, the motion, which was supported by Liberals only, was defeated by 42 to 11.

Stabilization Board to Develop Export Markets Recommended by Agricultural Committee

Vital Farm Problems Dealt with in Important Report by Committee of Assembly Under Chairmanship of A. B. Claypool—Would Extend Powers of Debt Adjustment Director to Whole Province

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE

EDMONTON, March 25.—A number of important recommendations dealing with pressing farm problems were made to the Legislature by the Agricultural Committee of the Assembly, which on Tuesday, March 24th, completed a series of hearings at which evidence was taken from a large number of witnesses. Three sections of the committee, one on debtor and creditor problems, under the chairmanship of George MacLachlan, U.F.A., Pembina; a second on the oil and gasoline situation, in charge of W. G. Farquharson, U.F.A., Ribstone, and a third headed by A. G. Andrews, U.F.A., Sedgewick, on marketing problems, presented reports of their findings to A. B. Claypool, U.F.A., Didsbury, chairman of the general committee, who brought them to the attention of the Legislature. The committee on marketing problems recommended the creation of an Agricultural Stabilization Board to develop export markets and stabilize prices.

Dealing with the agricultural credit situation, the committee recommended that the Debt Adjustment Act be amended in the following particulars:

(a) To give the director power to file a certificate anywhere in the Province.

(b) To provide that this power may be exercised upon the application of any person bona fide engaged in farming operations in the Province, rather than as at present only upon the application of any person with an interest in a growing crop.

(c) To provide that all the assets of the applicant farmer, including crop, livestock, machinery and other chattels, be brought within the jurisdiction of the Director.

The committee further recommended that the Fraudulent Preferences Act be amended by extending the period of attack from sixty days to twelve months.

The committee further recommended that provision be made for the appointment of an official to act as the representative of a retail merchant at meetings of his creditors.

Excessive Interest Rates

"The committee is of the opinion that excessive rates of interest are being charged in Western Canada," the report continued.

"The committee is of the opinion that in the matter of taking undue and unnecessary security from farmers for current financing the banks in Western Canada are not giving farmer borrowers the con-

sideration adequate for the proper financing of their ordinary operations.

"Furthermore, the committee has examined, and considers unnecessarily harsh and extremely unreasonable, a certain form of land mortgage which has been filed with the committee as typical of the kind of land mortgage demanded by the banks in Western Canada of their farmer borrowers.

"Having heard the evidence of representatives of various finance corporations, the committee is not satisfied that excessive and probably illegal rates of interest are not being charged by these corporations in connection with the purchase of automobiles and trucks, under the cloak of so-called finance charges.

"Furthermore, the committee regrets that the one finance corporation requested to submit a detailed analysis of its finance charge in a specific transaction referred to, did not supply this information to the committee."

Oil and Gas Situation

The report on the oil and gas situation was as follows:

"This committee, through witnesses, have investigated the possibilities of alcohol as a substitute for motor fuel. We find that at the present time we cannot recommend it as an economic competitor but that there are certain possibilities in this field which warrant further research.

"In connection with the price of gasoline we feel that our investigation has

shown that there is a considerable disparity between cost of gas at wells in Turner Valley and the price to the consumer.

"We think the evidence produced shows need for a regulating force. We are of the opinion that the bill presented by the Government is a step in the right direction and we recommend a further study of this problem by the Government"

Marketing of Farm Products

The third sub-committee reported as follows with respect to the production and marketing of farm products:

"Evidence submitted by various witnesses might be summarized as follows:

"(1) There has been extensive publicity during recent months with respect to encouraging the farmer to turn towards diversified farming.

"(2) The result of this encouragement, and the prevailing abnormal price for wheat, have already resulted in a marked visible increase in the production of live stock and live stock products in Western Canada, especially swine and dairy products.

"(3) All witnesses predicted a large surplus of swine, poultry and dairy products in Western Canada during the current year.

"(4) Witnesses expressed the opinion that prices to the farmers for the above farm products would reach very low levels before the end of the year, which is already evidenced in the rapid decline in hog prices during recent weeks.

"(5) Those engaged in the processing of livestock products gave evidence to show that their business was not to any great extent affected by the prices paid to farmers for live stock products. For example, the earnings of packing plants would vary little over a period of years, whether the price of hogs was 5c per lb. or 12c per lb.

"(6) All witnesses testified to the desirability of finding ways and means of stabilizing prices of farm products in Canada.

"(7) Witnesses in general indicated the desirability of every effort being made to develop an export trade with Great Britain in live stock, poultry and dairy products.

"(8) When questioned, most witnesses agreed that prices of farm products consumed in Canada should be based on Canadian conditions and not set by world price levels governing exportable surpluses.

"(9) Evidence was submitted to show that some form of Agricultural Stabilization board supported by Federal legislation should be set up to take care of export surpluses in a manner that would maintain Canadian farm products on profitable price levels.

Recommendations

"In view of the evidence submitted and the fact that unemployment will continue in Canada until the purchasing power of those engaged in agriculture is stabilized on a higher basis than that which prevails at the present time this Committee recommends:

"(1) That every effort be made by the Alberta Provincial Government to take such measures as will assist in guiding production toward market requirements and in reducing the costs of producing, processing and marketing Alberta farm products.

"(2) That the Alberta Provincial Government, in co-operation with the Provincial Governments of other Provinces and the Federal Government of Canada, should do all in its power to secure the

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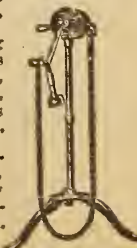
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creation of an Agricultural Stabilization Board for the purpose of developing export markets, supervising our export trade in farm products and creating a system that will stabilize prices for farm products consumed in Canada."

U.F.A. members throughout the sessions of the committee missed no opportunities to question the various witnesses who gave evidence. Prominent among those who by their inquiries brought out information on problems in which they were interested were George MacLachlan, Pembina; Donald MacLeod, Stony Plain; Gordon Walker, Claresholm; F. S. Grisdale, Olds; P. J. Enzenauer, Alexandra; J. R. Love, Wainwright; M. C. McKeen, Lac Ste. Anne; A. M. Matheson, Vegreville; Lorne Proudfoot, Acadia; S. A. Carson, Sturgeon; Donald Cameron, Innisfail; W. H. Shield, Macleod; Omer St. Germain, St. Albert; Gordon Forster, Hand Hills; A. L. Sanders, Stettler; R. M. McCool, Cochrane, and J. J. McLellan, Taber.

C.P.R. Contract Holders Present Case to Assembly Committee

A strong case for the C.P.R. land contract holders who felt that the terms of their contracts have placed them in an impossible position was presented by a delegation which appeared before the agricultural committee of the Assembly during the session. Evidence given by W. E. Mercer and E. C. Chandler, president and secretary of the C.P.R. Contract Holders' Association, was to the effect that 90 per cent of farmers on C.P.R. irrigation land have been unable to meet the terms of their contracts and are in danger of losing their land. A Royal Commission, they urged, should be appointed to investigate the high interest charges and other handicaps under which they are laboring. Further evidence in support of their contentions was given by H. C. Barr and H. Sheldrake and A. McBain. While the company has been quite fair in its treatment, settlers had grown tired of asking for re-adjustment of contracts, they stated.

The C.P.R. has never refused to discuss individual difficulties with any settler and is glad to make necessary adjustments, said George Walker, K.C., the company's solicitor. It had already paid some \$700,000 arrears of taxes for settlers to save their lands from forfeiture and was willing to remit dollar for dollar of arrears as soon as substantial payments could again be made.

Replying to a question by Hon. George Hoadley, Mr. Walker stated that the company's loss on operation of its irrigation projects had been about \$250,000 annually since 1925. There was little reason he felt, replying to J. C. Buckley, U.F.A., Gleichen, for a Royal Commission, since each case had to be dealt with on its own merits, but he could see the value of a suggestion by W. H. Shield, U.F.A., Macleod, that the whole question of contracts and conditions generally be investigated by an advisory board representing the company, the Government and the contract holders.

Additional evidence in support of the contention that it was possible to make a living under the conditions called for under the C.P.R. land contracts was given by L. Lavritsen, C. A. Cowell and Arthur Gosling. These farmers expressed their entire satisfaction with their treatment by the company, and felt that there was little cause for complaint.

The Provincial Debt Adjustment Bureau will act as an intermediary between contract holders and the company in an

effort to adjust individual grievances in order to avert undue hardship and to keep deserving farmers on the land. This was the decision of the Assembly when Premier Brownlee moved an amendment to this effect to the motion of John C. Buckley, U.F.A., Gleichen, who had put up a strong fight on behalf of many of his constituents for appointment of a Royal Commission to investigate their position.

Many of these settlers, Mr. Buckley pointed out, were in an impossible position in view of heavy arrears of payments, and the C.P.R., since it had induced them to come to the country, should, he felt, bear at least part of the losses which faced them.

J. Mackintosh, Independent, Bow Valley, advocated appointment of a board representing the company and the Government to investigate the question, and thought adoption of mixed farming would put many of these farmers in a better position. He also urged the Government to provide nearby grazing leases which would encourage livestock production.

Premier Brownlee expressed the opinion that the C.P.R. would not unduly press settlers for payment this year who had suffered as a result of market and climatic conditions, and he thought the help which the Debt Adjustment Bureau could provide would be effective in many cases.

Seed Grain Advances for Needy Farmers Provided for in Act of Assembly

Advances Available Only to Farmers Who Cannot Procure Seed from Own Resources

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE

EDMONTON, March 28.—Provision for making advances of seed grain to farmers requiring this for their 1931 crop was made in a bill introduced by Hon. R. G. Reid, Provincial Treasurer, last week and adopted by the Legislature. This assistance will be given only to farmers who are unable as a result of crop failure or other adverse conditions to procure their necessary seed grain through their own resources, and advances for this purpose will be handled through the municipalities which will share the cost with Provincial and Federal Governments.

Definite limits are set as to the value of grain which will be provided. These are set at \$75 for a quarter section; \$125 for a half section; \$175 for three quarters and a maximum of \$225 for a section or more of land. The use of grain so advanced is limited strictly to seeding of land, and all applications for seed under this arrangement must be made to municipalities before May 15th, 1931.

The municipalities as a protection against loss for their share of the liability are empowered to take interest bearing notes. The advances are to be secured by (a) A lien upon all crops from any seed; (b) Lien upon all crops grown in 1931 and 1932; (c) Lien upon land or recipient. Money is to be loaned to the Province by the Federal Government to assist in financing this relief, stated Mr. Reid.

F. S. Grisdale, U.F.A., Olds, emphasized the danger of co-operative credit societies in some districts becoming involved in these loans, and this view was supported by G. H. Webster, Liberal leader. Hon. George Hoadley, Minister of Agriculture, assured the Assembly that safeguards against this would be provided.

Assembly Asks Guaranteed Price of 70c on 1931 Wheat Crop, Ft. William Basis

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE

EDMONTON, March 28.—By a vote of 37 to 15 the Alberta Legislature today requested the Dominion Government to guarantee a minimum price of 70 cents a bushel, basis Vancouver or Fort William, for the 1931 Western wheat crop.

The motion adopted was a sub-amendment moved by Premier Brownlee to a resolution introduced by A. M. Matheson, U.F.A., Vegreville, calling for a guaranteed minimum price on the 1930 crop of 55 cents, and to an amendment by A. P. Mitchell, Liberal, Ledue, to Mr. Matheson's original motion. The amendment asked the Dominion Government to guarantee a "reasonable profit"

on other seasons' crops as well as 1930. Mr. Matheson withdrew his original after Mr. Brownlee's sub-amendment had been presented, in an effort to secure unanimity.

Should Have Been Given Last Fall

Premier Brownlee stated that he stood firmly by the position taken by the Prairie Premiers last fall, that a minimum

price of 70 cents a bushel should have been guaranteed by the Dominion on the 1930 crop. He still believed that action to this end should have been taken in the fall, and he emphasized the desirability of action now being taken to guarantee this minimum figure on the crop of 1931. Western Canada, he declared, should present one clear, unified demand for the wheat situation to be dealt with effectively.

If nothing were done, the Premier foresaw the possibility of a most dangerous situation arising in the fall of this year. If conditions which obtained in the fall of 1930 were repeated, neither the Pool nor any company buying grain would dare to give an initial payment of more than 30 or 40 cents a bushel, which would mean a price of perhaps 15 cents a bushel at country points and would create an absolutely "impossible situation."

Would Not Stimulate Production

Bonusing of production rather than stabilization of world wheat prices was in Mr. Brownlee's opinion the immediate need. The price of 70 cents, he believed, would not tend to increase acreage, but to decrease it, but it would reduce production losses to a minimum. If the guarantee had been given last fall, the West would not have been faced by the serious rural relief problem which has arisen, he declared. While it was true that the United States Farm Board had got into difficulties as the result of fixing prices higher than production costs, a basis of 70 cents, Fort William, such as was proposed for Canada, was in an entirely different category.

D. M. Duggan, Conservative leader, spoke in opposition to the policy of guaranteeing prices, as did F. C. Moyer, Independent, Drumheller, in opposing Mr. Matheson's resolution in its original form.

W. H. Shield, U. F. A., Macleod, supporting it, pointed out that through the protective tariff very heavy bonuses were given to industries the prices of whose products had not suffered more than a fraction of the decline which had occurred in the case of agricultural products. It was a mere measure of justice to provide a means of enabling the farmer to obtain a price for wheat nearer to the cost of production than the prices which had prevailed since the slump.

In the debate on Mr. Matheson's original resolution, Hon. O. L. McPherson expressed the opinion that stabilizing of prices by means which was there proposed was merely trying to lift the farmers out of their difficulties by their bootstraps, and would not prove satisfactory.

School Bill in Modified Form Passes

Minister in New Legislation Eliminates Contentious Clause

EDMONTON, March 28th.—The much discussed Baker School Bill which has been the subject of vigorous attack in previous years, was one of the last measures to be considered during the session. The principle of the bill, this time, however, had been considerably modified through elimination of the contentious clause setting up large taxation units, which removed this right from the individual school districts.

One point which drew a good deal of argument was that dealing with quali-

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fications of electors. As first introduced by Hon. Perren Baker, Minister of Education, this section read "that trustees might be elected by any person of the full age of 21 years who is and has been a resident of any established school district for a period of at least two months immediately prior to the date of any school meeting."

As a result of debate, this residence requirement had been altered to one year. A strong effort was made by G. E. Cruickshank, Independent, Rocky Mountain, to add a further qualification that the elector be either a ratepayer or a British subject, but this suggestion was defeated by a small majority.

Hector Lang, Liberal, Medicine Hat, strongly urged that town and city high schools be enabled to give work equivalent to the first two years of University. The Minister explained that further

negotiations with University authorities would be necessary before this arrangement could possibly be made.

C. L. Gibbs, Edmonton Labor member, strongly protested against the practice of having the inspector's report on a teacher read at the annual school meeting, and it was decided that in future this should be done only in case a special motion of the meeting demanded it.

Lorne Proudfoot, U.F.A., Acadia, thought no harm could come from this practice and that consideration of the report would help to maintain a high standard of teachers.

P. A. Miskew, U.F.A., Victoria, showed that he was thoroughly familiar with many rural educational problems and offered a number of suggestions which the Minister stated would be taken into consideration.

The bill was enacted.

DEBT ADJUSTMENT ACT EXTENDED

The scope of the Debt Adjustment Act was extended by legislation enacted near the close of the session of the Alberta Legislature, in the manner set forth in the Agricultural Committee's recommendations, published elsewhere in this issue.

resources, because the Dominion Government was afraid to appeal to the Privy Council.

Of Little Value, Says Irvine

Mr. Irvine contended that fiscal independence would be of little use to the West if the United States were to say: "We won't take your cattle; we will put up a wall against you; we won't take your wheat; we won't take your eggs or your butter." The earth, said the speaker, had become an economic unit, and by dissociation from the Dominion the prairie west could not free itself from the economic problems of the world. The resolution was absolutely unintelligent unless it meant secession. He was not afraid of secession, but if he wanted it he would say so and be ready to fight for it and would not try to get a resolution through the U.F.A. Convention that meant secession while saying that it did not. "Some of you," said Mr. Irvine, "have said that you were going to provide teeth for those of us who have to bite for you in Ottawa. Don't give us this sort of teeth."

Several other speakers on both sides of the question made thoughtful contributions to the debate on this occasion.

The final debate on Mr. Roe's resolution took place at a later period in the Convention, in conjunction with the discussion of the resolution on secession, moved by Mr. Rafferty, who said he favored separation only as a last resort.

Mr. Speakman challenged the suggestion made during the debate that the adoption of the resolution would strengthen the U.F.A. Members in their attack on the walls of privilege. Mr. Roe's address was one of the most eloquent he had ever listened to, but he deplored Mr. Roe's conclusion. If the prairies were to separate they would have no outlet to the sea except by the still questionable Hudson Bay route. The West would have a separate state, almost purely agricultural in character, and without a great degree of diversification of industry could not hope to succeed. We could not compel people to act as we wished by separating ourselves from the rest of Canada. We were not uniform in our opinions on the prairies. Mr. Speakman pointed out that although we export our wheat we find in Canada markets for all other products. It had been suggested by some speakers that the resolution was a bluff, while others would actually seek secession as a last resort; if it were a bluff, it would weaken and not strengthen the Members' hands at Ottawa. There was no ammunition so fatal to the man who carried it as a dud shell.

After another delegate had spoken the vote was taken.

"It is extraordinary that Mrs. Jenks can never see any faults in her children," observed Mrs. Smith.

"Mothers never can," remarked her husband.

"What an absurd idea, James! So like a man. I'm sure I should see faults in our children at once—if they had any."

Convention Debate on Secession and Fiscal Separation

Resolutions Rejected by U.F.A. Annual Gathering

TWO proposals which had in view the fiscal independence of the Prairie Provinces were submitted to the Annual Convention of the U.F.A. in January, and rejected by large majorities after keen debate. The first was contained in a resolution which was moved by George Roe, delegate from Wheatsheaf Local and claimed the right of "immediate constitutional free economy" for territory extending from east of Fort William to the Rocky Mountains. A second resolution, submitted by Kinnaird U.F.A. Local, called for secession and the setting up of a Western Dominion under the British flag unless the opportunity to "trade our goods for goods of equal value from the Mother country" should be conceded by Confederation.

Mr. Roe, who has farmed for many years near Altario, was a delegate to the Convention for the first time, and the speech in which he presented the case for fiscal autonomy—eloquent, rich in brilliant metaphor, revealing meticulous care in preparation, and delivered in a voice of remarkable resonance and with great persuasive force—produced a marked effect on the Convention. Brief speeches by Arthur Shuttleworth of Balzac and by William Irvine, M.P., which followed, however, brought a rapid change of atmosphere. The debate was concluded in a later session, at which Alfred Speakman, M.P., also took the floor and in a few forceful sentences opposed as unthinkable the proposal of separation.

Roe Expounds Proposal

Mr. Roe defined "constitutional free economy" as "the final abolition of the currency graft, the resources graft and the tariff graft, the three preeminent and notorious public licenses to steal." Dealing directly with the fiscal aspects of the proposal of his Local, he said, anticipating the criticism that "no country can have two policies," that as a matter of fact free Hamburg had for centuries been part of a trade restricted country, and, he asked rhetorically, "But why go further for an example than to cite the glorious British Commonwealth of Free Peoples?" The economic troubles of the Dominion, he affirmed, could be "rectified within five years by the simple expedient of the removal of all trade restrictions, the restitution of economic rent and the regulation of currency and credit to maintain consumer demand."

The Government of His Imperial Majesty did not question the right of any British Dominion to secede. That the Prairie Provinces should be compelled in effect to secede from the Mother Country was an event which the resolution he proposed chiefly sought to avert. If Eastern Canada should place a tariff against our wheat, Eastern Canada would certainly suffer; and if we suffered also, we should suffer for a principle and not, as now, for lack of principle. "In times of extremity it is women and children first, and it is in the name of our women and children now we notify the Canadian Confederation to stand out of our routes of trade. We are at the parting of the ways, and within a few short months must insist on meeting our customers with intelligence and goodwill, for already throughout the prairies deprivation and disease are ripening the harvest for the grim reaper of death."

Shuttleworth Opposes

Mr. Shuttleworth of Balzac strongly opposed the resolution, declaring that as a Canadian he had a very warm place in his heart for the rest of the Dominion. He realized, he said, "the difficulty of refuting eloquence" such as Mr. Roe's, and he was conscious of the West's serious grievances; but adoption of resolutions of this character would merely alienate the sympathy of the remainder of Canada.

Mr. Holder, who also declared his Canadian birth, said that it was necessary to have some "kick" behind the demands of the West for equitable treatment. Nova Scotia had threatened secession and had in consequence obtained her

EDITORIAL

(Continued from page 3)

"It is evident, even before the present session of Parliament is well under way, that the independents are going to play a telling part in debate during the next few weeks. With no personal axe to grind, but the interests of their constituents at heart; with admirable knowledge of economic questions arising directly from their own experience, and backed by intensive study both of their particular fields and of the world at large, and with oratorical gifts accompanied by fearlessness in speaking the truth as they see it, they will subject to the closest scrutiny and the keenest criticism whatever measures are now proposed."

* * *

EASTERN CANADA TAKES NOTICE

The ringing words in which E. J. Garland, M.P., described to an audience of Eastern financial magnates at the Montreal Canadian Club the tragic position of the Western farm people, and protested against the complacent optimism of comfortably placed and highly paid railway and bank executives, have apparently done much to rouse the people of the East to a recognition of realities.

Printed at length in many Eastern papers—in the *Toronto Globe* and others upon the front page under large headlines—Mr. Garland's speech must have reached a large circle of readers. It is the subject of extensive editorial comment. The *Toronto Globe*, which welcomes his frankness, hopes that his criticism and that of Mr. Weir "will not be brushed aside too easily" and declares: "It is folly to work out any national policy which does not give due—or even first—consideration to

the Western farmer. . . . This is where the country is falling down at present. This is why so much of the West is up in arms, and undoubtedly why Mr. Garland told the Canadian Club he did not bring a tale of platitudinous reassurances but preferred to state actual conditions."

* * *

The *Montreal Gazette* declares that: "The West was not made by men of Mr. Garland's stamp, but by men of courage and self-reliance."

The West was made by men of courage and self-reliance. They were men, who, like Mr. Garland, never flinched from the utterance of unpleasant truths when such was necessary, even though in some quarters they might be unwelcome truths.

* * *

CONFERENCE OF WHEAT EXPORTING COUNTRIES

It is gratifying to note that the Canadian Government's envoy to the Rome wheat conference has taken the lead in an effort to arrange an international conference of representatives of wheat exporting countries to consider plans for the marketing of the export surpluses of the coming crop season. Apparently the effort has been successful. The conference will include representatives of Canada, Australia, Argentina, the Soviet Union, and other European wheat exporting countries, and India.

It is simple common sense to include the Soviet Union in the conference; as sensible as economic boycott and the talk of economic isolation of Russia are foolish. No exporting country desires to sell wheat at less than the cost of production, and it will be wise at least to explore by frank discussion between representatives of the leading exporters the possibility of bringing about an improvement in the export market. It is worthy of note in passing that while the Soviet Union has underbid Canada in the European market, Rumania, (against which country neither Sir Herbert Holt nor any other financier has sought to incite hostility) has been underbidding the Soviet Union.

Seed Grain Advances

Procedure to Be Followed

Details of the arrangements for seed grain advances, under the Act described on page 24, have come to hand just as the paper goes to press, and it is therefore possible to give only a brief summary. The procedure will be: farmers will apply to the Municipal District for seed required, or, if living in an Improvement District, direct to the Department of Municipal Affairs. The Municipal Districts and the Department will pass upon applications, and group them for carlot shipments. The Department of Agriculture will arrange shipment from growers who have suitable seed, after inspection by the Dominion Seed Branch. Shippers will receive payment from the Department of Municipal Affairs, which will charge the amounts to the Municipal Districts or Improvement Districts, as the case may be. Farmers will receive the seed at its commercial grade track price, at shipping point, the Dominion and Provincial Governments absorbing the premium allowed the producer.

Free Freight on Seed Grain

Freight charges on carload shipments of No. 1 and No. 2 seed grain (to farmers in the part of the Province now under the special tariff on feed shipments) will be borne by the Federal and Provincial Governments. Application should be made to the Municipal District or, by farmers living in Improvement Districts, to the Department of Agriculture, Edmonton.

Premium on Registered Seed

One-third of the premium on registered or certified seed grain and of the cost of freight on carload lots will be borne by the Provincial Department of Agriculture and one-third by the Federal Department. Applications from those wishing either to purchase or to sell under this scheme should be made to the Department of Agriculture, Edmonton.

Anti-Beer Hall Petitions

The Alberta Assembly on the last day of the session unanimously adopted the report of the standing committee which examined the anti-beer hall petitions. The committee recommended, in view of its inability to decide on a number of points, that the Government take such action as might be considered necessary by way of referring the matter to the courts or calling further evidence before next session to determine whether the action requested in the petitions should be granted.

Describes Attack on Meeting at Vegreville

U.F.A. Secretary Knows of no Bona Fide Farmers Having Taken Part

We have received a long letter from John Bilar, secretary of Ukrainian U.F.A. Local, to the effect that a daily press account of the breaking up of a meeting in Vegreville recently was incorrect in

stating that only one young man was touched by the attackers. He declares that he saw children who had been cut by glass, a little boy injured on the head, a farmer's wife who was struck on the shoulder and painfully hurt, and numbers of farmers who had head injuries. He states that he has no reason to believe that "there was one bona fide farmer among the attackers." Describing the attack, Mr. Bilar writes that the farmers inside the hall were showered with a "hail of rocks, bricks, empty bottles and eggs and iron bars." Doors were blocked, lights were put out, and mothers and children were in great distress. The hall was wrecked. Our correspondent adds that some of the attackers came in cars and trucks from another town.

"Some of us at least are opposed to the democratic doctrine of free speech, at any rate when it is the other fellow's speech and we do not agree with him."
—Alberta Farmer.

Wide Powers to Control Oil Operations

Wide powers are taken by the Province under new legislation, to conserve natural gas and regulate oil drilling activities in Turner Valley and other fields in the Province. The Government are empowered to restrict the flow of oil and gas wells to a given percentage of their open flow, to determine where drilling shall be allowed, to inspect wells at any time, and to prohibit drilling in a given area for any stated period of time, or indefinitely, if this course is thought advisable to conserve these natural resources.

Wrong Relationship of Prices and the Gold Standard

How Canadian Farmer is Handicapped in Competition With Australia and Argentina

"May I give to the House one or two instances of the wrong relationship of prices that now exists?" asked G. G. Coote, M.P., in the debate on the address in the House of Commons. "A few weeks ago a gentleman told me that it took five bushels of his wheat to pay for the half-soling of his boy's shoes; that was No. 2 grade wheat. I heard of another case where a man took 60 bushels of barley to pay for a pair of workshoes for himself. I know of a man who, having brought eleven dozen eggs to town and succeeded in getting a dollar for them, thought he had made a good deal. He had his boy with him and they went over to the restaurant to get their lunch. It cost 90 cents for the two meals. With the remaining 10 cents he bought a pair of shoelaces for the boy. Even at that there was nothing to pay for the gasoline he used in driving to town and back again. It takes just 75 bushels of No. 1 oats to buy a pair of plowshares."

"Lower Production Costs"

"The Government is concerned with the question of securing lower production costs. I want to say that if the farmer in Western Canada is to wait for the betterment of his condition until we can get these lower production costs, the farmers now there will have disappeared, because it is impossible for them to carry on under present conditions."

"I am going to suggest that we abandon the gold basis in Canada, and do it very soon. From 1914 until 1926 the suspension of redemption of our notes in gold obtained in this country, and I do not think anyone was the worse off for it. It was necessary in 1914 and in my opinion it is just as necessary today."

A number of important quotations from the portion of Mr. Coote's speech dealing with the gold standard are given in Miss Macphail's article on page 7. Mr. Coote read a statement made by Viscount D'Abernon, before the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce, in the course of which this prominent British financier declared: "*If you desire a return to good market conditions in cotton or wheat or any other commodity, if you wish for higher freights and more trade activity—you will achieve these with greater certainty and greater speed by dealing with the gold and currency problem than by any other means.*"

Canadian Farmer's Heavy Handicap

Going on to discuss the request of the Prairie Premiers that the Federal Government guarantee to pay to the farmers 70 cents a bushel for No. 1 wheat at Fort William, Mr. Coote pointed out that this would by no means encourage over-production of wheat, since none will produce it at that price if he "can find anything else in the world to do with his farm." He stated that the people of the Prairie Provinces were almost solidly behind their Governments in this matter, and said that the Government of Australia were guaranteeing their farmers 68 cents a bushel, and as only 8 cents per bushel was required to move wheat from the railway siding to seaboard in Australia, this meant that the farmer would receive 60 cents.

"If Canada will not do something more for her farmers than has been done so

far," the member proceeded, "it simply means that the individual Canadian farmer is in competition with the Australian nation when he goes to sell his wheat in the markets of the world."

Dealing with the case of Russia, Mr. Coote quoted from a series of articles which appeared in the *Calgary Herald*, written by a man who visited that country last year on a tour of investigation for the *New York Evening Post*, to the effect that the Government grain trading organization paid to private peasants and collective farms throughout the Soviet Union an average price for wheat of one ruble forty kopecks, which,

"reckoning the rouble at par, or the Soviet State bank rate of one rouble, ninety-four kopecks to the dollar, amounts to \$1.20 a bushel."

"The stated policy of this Government is to give fair conditions in the home market to the home manufacturer. But what about the exporter? He is left to shift for himself. Last year at the special session the Government introduced very drastic legislation to prevent any goods being dumped into Canada; yet every bushel of wheat we produce in Canada whether consumed here or elsewhere, is sold at a dumped price. Everybody knows it. What is being done about it?"

NEWS OF THE ORGANIZATION

(Continued from page 5)

Note to Local Secretaries

It would be much appreciated by Central Office if Local secretaries would be careful to give the correct post office addresses of members, when sending in membership dues and lists. Where there has been a change of address, a note should be made on the list of the former post office. Inconvenience to members, and some unnecessary expense to the paper, are sometimes caused through the wrong address being given.

Junior Conference Fund

Donations for the Junior Conference Fund received to date are as follows:

Lethbridge U.F.W.A.....	\$ 5.00
Wheatshaf U.F.W.A.....	5.00
Grimshaw U.F.W.A.....	5.00
Three Hills U.F.A.....	5.00
Cornwall Valley U.F.W.A.....	5.00
Berrywater U.F.W.A.....	5.00
East Milo Juniors.....	15.00
Beddington U.F.W.A.....	5.00
High River U.F.W.A.....	10.00

Total.....\$60.00

Donations should be directed to Miss F. Bateman, Secretary-Treasurer, at the U.F.A. Central Office.

NEWS OF U.F.A. LOCALS

H. High, president of Morrin U.F.A., reports that some 400 persons attended a meeting of the Local in Morrin hall on March 21st, when Carl Axelson was the principal speaker.

W. M. Washburn recently organized Brightbank U.F.A. Local, in the Stony Plain district. Henry H. Summerfield was elected president and David O. Dickie secretary.

Glenevis U.F.A. Local was reorganized at a recent meeting, reports Frank P. Tate, who was elected secretary. D. Duff is president and H. Kaiser vice-president.

Bingley U.F.A. Local at a recent meeting passed the following resolution: "Whereas, the cost of drying tough wheat is three cents a bushel, and the producers are charged six cents, it would be a benefit to the farmers to try to get this immoderate spread reduced."

Cayley U.F.A. and U.F.W.A. Locals held their annual supper and entertainment on March 2nd, when Mrs. Dwelle,

U.F.W.A. director, and D. H. Galbraith gave interesting addresses, suitable to the occasion. The pupils of Mrs. Spankie, High River, gave a most enjoyable program of singing and dancing; the musical instrument for the entertainment was kindly furnished by the McDermid Drug Company of High River.

About 100 persons heard the debate put on by Ghost Pine U.F.A. Local, "Resolved that a 100 per cent grain pool by legislation would not be in the best interests of Western Canada," with C. G. Bible supporting the affirmative and H. J. Ash the negative. The judges, Rev. A. R. Schrag, C. H. Leathley of Three Hills, and D. I. Nash, the local school teacher, declared Mr. Ash the winner of the debate by two points. The debate was followed by lunch and an impromptu program.

Following an address by J. M. Wheatley, U.F.A. Director, on U.F.A. activities and the co-operative oil pool, Wayne Local was organized, with A. H. Jorgenson president, P. Ostergaard vice-president and S. B. Nielson secretary. A committee of six was appointed to canvass the district for members. A resolution was passed setting forth the desirability of reducing costs of carrying on farm operations and opposing any increase in the tariff on fuel and lubricating oils.

"When Mr. Priestley visited Naco at the invitation of the Sedalia-Naco Rally Committee," states a correspondent, "the School Boards took advantage of the opportunity and asked Mr. Priestley to address the school children. The Rural High School pupils went over to Naco's new public school and listened with great pleasure to his talk. Mr. Priestley is just as much at home with the children as with the grown ups and the inspiration he gave them will be felt all through their lives."

"On March 13th," reports Mrs. R. L. Rash, "Hudson U.F.A. Local closed a successful membership drive. Interest ran high, as both of the contesting teams had kept their gains a secret, and the final meeting was largely attended. D. W. Treece's team won 24 life members, 12 annual members and 2 juniors; while J. Leahy's team won 6 life members, 44 annual and 2 Juniors. Since more points were given for life members, Mr. Treece's team won by a large majority; their leader deserves great credit for his enthusiasm and zeal. Hudson Local now has 97 members; we claim the leading place among Alberta Locals. J. Leahy is president and Harry Hart secretary. The losing team were hosts at a dance,

following the splendid lecture by Donald Cameron of the University, on 'Research and the Farmer.' Later the losing team feted the winners at a turkey dinner, at the home of Mrs. Geo. Savage. Hudson U.F.A. Local expects to grow in enthusiasm and usefulness as it has in numbers."

"We are glad to report that we were included in the itinerary of Mr. Bevington and Director Young and that in spite of the difficult roads we had a fairly representative meeting, combining with the Iola Local to make it more successful," writes William A. Adams, Secretary of Bluffton U.F.A. Local. "All present expressed their pleasure with and were intensely interested in the address given by Mr. Bevington, who certainly gave us food for thought. We were pleased to become acquainted with Director Young, this being his first visit to our part of his territory. We hope to have him with us again in the not distant future."

Vice-President Addresses Series of Meetings

President Gardiner Will Speak at Rallies After Session

During the latter part of March, Norman F. Priestley, Vice-president, has addressed a number of U.F.A. meetings, and a further series has been arranged for this week and next.

On Tuesday, March 17th, he spoke at Irricana to a gathering from Locals in the district. S. J. Ewing, E. R. Briggs of the Wheat Pool, and W. N. Smith also spoke briefly at this meeting.

On Saturday afternoon, March 21, Mr. Priestley addressed the Chinook Local, and in the evening of the same day spoke at a rally of six or seven Locals of the Naco-Sedalia district at Naco, when there was an attendance of about 280 persons. On the Sunday following he conducted a service in the same hall in the afternoon; and on Monday morning gave a talk to the children of the public and high schools. On Monday afternoon, March 23rd, he addressed the Collingwood Local at the Clover Leaf School, speaking at Keystone School, south of Youngstown, in the evening. Meetings were held on Tuesday, March 24th at Oyen and at the Hills school, where he addressed the Progress Local.

Other meetings have been arranged as follows:

Monday evening, March 30, rally of Barons, Plainfield and Champion Locals, at Carmangay.

Tuesday evening, March 31st, Claresholm Local. H. B. MacLeod, Director, and Mr. Priestley will speak.

Wednesday, April 1st, J. M. Wheatley, Director, and Mr. Priestley will speak at Standard and Hussar.

Wednesday, April 8th, Mr. Priestley will speak at Lomond, on invitation of seven Locals of the district who will hold a rally. The Locals are Midway, Badger Lake, Travers, Armada, Enchant, Bow City and Milo.

Wed., March 9th, district rally, Bow Island.

President Robert Gardiner is arranging to respond to invitations to address a series of rallies at central points following the prorogation of Parliament, which will probably occur in July. President Gardiner will be at Central Office for a few days during the Easter recess.

"If the Government wishes to aid farmers it should encourage co-operative buying even more than it encourages co-operative selling," Dr. G. F. Warren, of the N. Y. State College of Agriculture.

Protest Increase in Freight Rates from East

U.F.A. Takes Action in Respect Rates on Canned Fruit and Vegetables

Strong protest against increased freight rates on canned fruit and vegetables moving from Eastern Canada to the Prairie Provinces announced by the railways as to be effective on the opening of lake navigation, has been entered by the United Farmers of Alberta, in conjunction with the farmers' organizations of Saskatchewan and Manitoba. The announced increase is from 30 to 51 cents per 100 lbs., which if permitted to go into effect, will mean, it is estimated, an increase to consumers after distribution through wholesale and retail channels, of at least 60 cents per 100 lbs., or more than \$300 a car, or a total of approximately \$30,000 on the one hundred cars from Eastern Canada annually consumed in Alberta.

Following consultation with members of the U.F.A. Executive last week, Norman F. Priestley, Vice-president, wired Hon. R. J. Manion, Minister of Railways and Canals, as follows:

"United Farmers of Alberta respectfully protest proposed increase of railway rates on canned goods from East to West. Farm families hard pressed by low prices farm commodities. Highly undesirable at this time to penalize consumer by increasing cost of living to advantage of railways. Urge department use influence to maintain or lower prevailing rates."

The Modern Knight

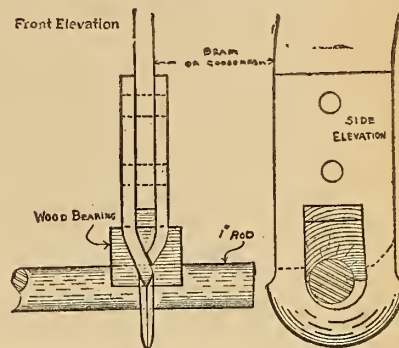
In Feudal days of long ago
The strongest muscle ran the show.
In armor clad, each old-time knight
Just grabbed up everything in sight,
Then planted stakes his lands about,
And kicked all other blighters out;
Then gathered round him lesser lights
To do his chores, and fight his fights.
And when things ran a little slack,
With bands of huskies at his back
He'd hie him out all o'er the land
To take whatever came to hand.
The freeman farmer, living near,
Was kept in constant dread and fear
Lest some of these marauding bands
Should overrun his private lands
In searching for unlawful spoil,
And rob the fruits of half his toil.

But now we're civilized and good,
Conduct ourselves as mortals should,
And run our show in modern ways,
Unlike barbaric feudal days;
The subjects now are free born men—
Not like the serfs and slaves of then.
No modern knight now totes a lance,
Or wears an iron shirt and pants,
Or hikes about in nightly raid
To rob the half the farmer's made.
No, no, indeed he's not so small,
His FINANCE SYSTEM takes it all.

G. F. LEE, Midnapore.

"The newspaper policy of telling its readers what they must believe in short paragraphs and staring headlines, and suppressing all that would enable its readers to have a really informed opinion on any subject—except, say, sport, or murder trials—will secure their being ready dupes to the policy of the largest circulation and the smallest thinking. They will never have acquired either the taste for serious reading or the capacity for digesting it."—Chapman, Cohen.

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- Allows rod to penetrate to furrow bottom.
- Eliminates binding of rod and excessive strain on driving mechanism.
- These shoes lessen the draft on a 12 foot weeder by about one horse.

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THE CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY COMPANY's land settlement plan offers unequalled opportunities for new settlers to purchase lands in Western Canada under easy long term contract. Write for free descriptive booklet. Canadian Pacific Railway Co., Department of Natural Resources, 905 First street east, Calgary.

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SELLING McCORMICK DEERING (28X46) steel threshers; consider small closed-in car on deal. Write Box 25, Fortinsch, Alberta

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SASKATOON TANNERY, SASKATOON—
Hides, Furs and Sheepskins tanned. Freight
paid on hides tanned. Ask for Price List

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business. Attractive work, good salaries.
Write for "Student Self-Help Plan." Gar-
butt Business College, 509 8th Ave. West,
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CARLOAD BANNER SEED OATS, GRADE
No. 2; Government Germination 97%. On
track 25c. David Fyerman, Rawcett.

PRIZE WINNING STRAINS REG. SEALED
Marquis first and second Gen. Certified
Reward. P. J. Rock, Morrin.

SEED CATALOGUE NOW READY (ILLU-
trated in colors). Send in your name for
copy. If interested in Seed Grain, Forage
Crops, etc., please write us. Steele, Briggs
Seed Co., Limited, Winnipeg, Regina and
Edmonton.

SELLING—FEED AND SEED OATS. WRITE
for prices carloads or less. L. C. Anderson,
Bittern Lake, Alberta.

2 C. W. AND FEED OATS FOR SALE—I.
Barnsley, Ridgedouga, P.O., Alberta.

7000 GREEN BUNDLES, 1 cent each. W.
Eisenman, Dunsmuir, Alberta.

FOR SALE—REGISTERED BANNER OATS
first and second generation, Grade Reg. No. 1,
highest award for Canada at Chicago.
Wholesale price to U.F.A. Locals. Write for
price stating quantity desired. Nels Linden,
Wetaskiwin.

PEACE RIVER SEED FOR SALE—REGISTER.
ed and commercial seed Oats and Wheat,
Howard and Garnet wheat. Second and
third generation Marquis wheat, Victory
and Banner oats. Write for samples and
prices. Peace River Co-operative Seed
Growers Ltd., Grande Prairie.

SELLING TWO CARS VICTORY SEED OATS.
No 1 Govt. grade, Test 99 in 12 days. Seed
Control Certificate No. 70-4278. Price
25c in carlots. 30c per bus., bagged. Bags
extra. Philip Keeley, Sanguo, Alta.

REDUCED PRICES ON CHOICE ALFALFA
Hay—Farmers, Dantymen, we have various
grades of Alfalfa, all hay carefully graded,
and sold on grade. Write for our special
prices. Brooks Farmers' Co-operative Assn.
Ltd., Brooks, Alberta.

REGISTERED PEDIGREED SEED, FIRST
generation; Registered Marquis wheat, first
generation; Registered Victory oats, second
generation; Registered OAC 21 barley, all
from specially selected pedigreed lines
suitable for producing a crop of high quality
and show purposes. Moderate prices.
Apply H. G. L. Strange, Fenn, Alberta.

SELLING 2 CARLOADS OF FEED OATS, 20c
L. E. Loveseth, Canrose, Alberta.

REWARD WHEAT. FIELD INSPECTED
and re-cleaned, grade 1; Excellent quality.
Certificate A7069; 75c including bags
special shipping rates. F. Fetherstonh,
Fort Sask., Alberta.

CARLOAD BANNER SEED OATS, THIRD
generation, No. 1, test 92 per cent in 7
days. Price 30c per bushel. L. McGinitie,
Tosfield, Alberta.

REWARD WHEAT, CERTIFICATE 70-729,
No. 1, germination 97. Carter disc cleaned,
60 cents bushel; sacks 20c. Shipped from
Boyle. J. Whitney, Donatville, Alta.

Car Lots Seed Grain**GOVERNMENT GRADE No. 1 SEED**

Marquis and Reward 60 to 80c per bushel.
Banner and Victory, 30 to 40c per bushel.

All seed was field inspected and eligible for
registration, or certification in the case of Reward.
White Blossom Sweet Clover, \$8.00 Cwt.
Certified Seed Potatoes, all varieties, 75 cents
per bushel.

Write for price list for small lots. Special
prices for 20 bushel lots or over. Let us know
your requirements, and we will quote prices.

"Quotations subject to prior sale."

ALBERTA SEED GROWERS' ASSOCIATION
Department of Agriculture
Edmonton — Alberta

**Garland Describes Real Conditions
in West****In Courageous Address Deplores Attitude
of Some Prominent Business
Executives**

Protesting against the attitude of mind
of bank and railways presidents and
others whose personal incomes are assured,
who talk of "psychological depression"
and minimize the seriousness of the con-
ditions in Western Canada, where "the
greatest of Canada's industries is crushed
to the ground by low prices," E. J.
Garland, M.P., addressed a large gather-
ing at a Canadian Club luncheon in
Montreal on March 16th, seizing the
opportunity to present to about 300
Eastern business and professional men a
clear picture of the situation in the West.
The assumption of a tone of unwarranted
optimism by certain business leaders, Mr.
Garland described as absurd and imper-
tinent.

The speaker said that the East would
before long feel the effects of the disaster
to agriculture in the West. The hope of
salvation lay in the fact that Canada dare
not lose her agriculture. "He urged,"
says the *Montreal Star*, which published
a two-column report of the speech, "a
new and wider conception of international
relations, the breaking down of trade
barriers, the cancellation of war debts,
fewer millionaires and more work in
Canada, and a complete revision and
modernization of Canada's banking sys-
tem. He wondered how many executives
in Montreal could go on meeting their
monthly installments if their income were
cut off for two years; yet that was the
situation of the bulk of Western farmers.

"There were people who preached that
the farmers had quit working. That was
false. There were others who came along
and said things were getting better. Things
were getting worse. The farmers were
starting a fresh crop year without money
and without credit. Why talk rubbish
about the trouble being psychological,
about prosperity coming, and the like? . . .

"It was interesting to talk about mixed
farming, but the farmer was in mixed

HERMAN TRELLE'S WORLD FAMOUS
Seeds, Registered Marquis Wheat, Cer-
tified Reward Wheat, Registered Victory
Oats. Top grades, high germination, low
prices. Apply Wembley, Alberta.

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inspected, Commercial and Registered. Can-
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CARLOT HEAVY WEIGHT FEED OATS,
Jackson Newsham, Innisfail.

SELLING—ALASKA 60 DAY OATS. FIELD
inspected, Eligible certification, Germina-
tion 96%. John C. Hurly, Alix, Alta.

ONE CARLOAD BANNER SEED OATS. GOVT.
grade No. 2, Germination 98%. Price on
request. Millard Kresge, Patricia, Alta.

PURE GRIMM ALFALFA SEED NO. 2, GER-
mination 96. Certificate 70-3273. 25c
per pound. A. D. Ferguson, Countess.

PEACE RIVER SEED. REDUCED PRICES
First generation Marquis No. 2, \$1.75 per
bushel; Second generation, Marquis No. 1,
70c; carlots 60c. Also Victory oats, 2nd
generation, No. 1, 40c per bushel. All seed
grown on breaking and high germination
test. Arthur M. Smith, Wembley, Alberta.

NUMBER ONE SEED OATS, VICTORY TYPE
for sale, any quantity. Also feed oats or
barley. If in the market it will pay to write
us for prices. Edmonton Grain & Hay Co.,
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farming whenever he could get money
out of it. But with butter at ten cents
a pound there was not a deal in it. . . .

"You have imposed on us a condition
which enables you to stabilize the price
levels for your products, while ours go
down to the bottom. We have been told
often enough to reduce our costs. Reduce
yours now. Let us have conditions where
the prices of what we buy will be in
proportion of the price of what we sell. . . .

"Civilization was at this moment, per-
haps unconsciously, undergoing a very
striking change. The whole attitude as
regards capitalism was altering. More
and more the human element was be-
coming recognized as a prime factor in
industrial life. . . . Russia had, perhaps,
lit a torch which might light the feet of
future generations toward a modification
of their social order. Premier Brownlee
had advised people to study Russia, learn
all they could about that country, reject
the evil they found there, but if there was
any good in what Russia was doing, to
seize it and make the most of it. . . .

"He suggested the creation of a na-
tional bank of rediscount, and a reor-
ganization of currency values so that
purchasing power might remain commens-
urate with production of goods, without
which goods could not be bought."

Advanced Policies

("Observer" in Alberta Farmer)

A short time ago I sug-
gested in these columns that the time
was ripe for an "era of more extended
and altogether wider usefulness" lying
ahead of the organization. Thus far
we have not heard anything of import-
ance from the new President, but Mr.
Gardiner has good reason for his tem-
porary silence. He is an important
personage in the U.F.A. group of legislators
at Ottawa and the Dominion Parliamen-
tary session is occupying his attention
to the near exclusion of all other matters
at the moment. But Mr. Priestley, the
new Vice-President, has free time on his
hands and has been heard from. His first
public utterance as an official of the
U.F.A. encourages me to hope that the
new officiate realizes the truth of the
statement quoted above. Also his an-
nouncement that the new President, so
soon as the Parliamentary session is con-
cluded, contemplates a speech-making
campaign among the Locals of the
U.F.A., convinces me that between them
the President and Vice-President have
laid out new lines of policy and will ul-
timately launch the organization upon a
progressive course in the matter of ad-
vanced education in co-operative and
other lines.

It is generally admitted that the bulk
of serious, intelligent thinking being done
in Canada today comes from the farmers.
It is also a fact that some of the most
radical thinking emanates from the same
source. So far as Alberta is concerned,
no organization or agency could be more
valuable for general dissemination of this
serious and intelligent thought than the
U.F.A. in its Locals. There is a wonder-
ful opportunity here for real public ser-
vice and I have a feeling that the new
officers of the U.F.A. are disposed to take
advantage of it, if not, indeed, take the
lead in the good work. It is my firm
belief that the moment is opportune for
the U.F.A. to extend its usefulness as a
socializing influence among the people,
and to give a lead to movements that
are of greater vital importance to public
welfare than even the Wheat Pool.

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